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Arar returns from Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar returned home Sunday after a five-day official visit to Cairo during which he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Arar, who also met with top Egyptian officials, said he delivered a message from Mr. Mubarak to the King upon his return. He said his discussions with Egyptian officials were "fruitful and successful" and that they discussed bilateral relations in the various fields and the latest developments in the Arab arena. Mr. Arar said the discussions handled ways of facilitating procedures of movement of citizens between the two countries and the shipping procedures between Aqaba and the Egyptian port of Nweiba.

Hassan arrives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan arrived in Pakistan Sunday on a brief visit during which he will hold talks with President Zia Ul Haq and senior Pakistani leaders. Prince Hassan was received at the airport by President Zia, senior Pakistani officials and the Jordanian ambassador to Pakistan. Later on Sunday, the Crown Prince was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by President Zia. Prince Hassan was seen off from Amman airport by His Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odch and Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Ehsan Rashid.

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Gromyko arrives for Geneva meeting

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived in Geneva Sunday to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for talks on opening arms negotiations between the two superpowers. Mr. Gromyko, 75, flew in aboard a Soviet airliner accompanied by dozens of senior officials eight hours after Mr. Shultz's plane landed from Washington (See page 8).

Saudi leader meets Moroccan king

RABAT (R) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah left Morocco Sunday after meeting King Hassan Saturday, the Moroccan news agency MAP said Sunday. Crown Prince Abdullah, who is first deputy prime minister, had a private talk with King Hassan in Marrakech where the king has been staying since New Year's Eve. No further details were available on the talks but Arab diplomatic sources said earlier that intense diplomatic efforts were being made to convene a long-delayed Arab summit in Riyadh, with a target date of early February in mind.

Hijack attempt foiled, Iran says

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian security agents have foiled an attempt to hijack an Iranian plane, the second such incident in four days, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday. It said three people, one armed with a revolver hidden in a plaster cast on his leg, were arrested before they could take over the airliner on a flight from the southern city of Khorramabad to Tehran Saturday. On Thursday, the Tehran newspaper Ettela'at said a number of "counter-revolutionaries" intent on hijacking an aircraft to Iraq were arrested at Shiraz airport.

Iran asks U.N. to inspect war front

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has formally asked the United Nations to survey damage Tehran claims was inflicted by Iraqi air raids on civilian areas near the Gulf war front, a spokesman for a U.N. inspection team here said Sunday. Iran accused Iraq of killing nearly 30 people and wounding more than 100 in raids last week at the town of Bostan and four nearby villages in Khuzestan province. Iran has reported raids against Iranian positions in the Misan area of the south-central war front but made no reference to Khuzestan province.

British coal chief optimistic over strike

LONDON (AP) — Ian MacGregor, the head of Britain's state-owned coal industry, says he hopes the nearly 10-month-old miners' strike will be over before its anniversary, on March 12. Mr. MacGregor, in a recorded interview on the "Good Morning Britain" TV programme Sunday, said he expects miners will continue to abandon their strike in large numbers, joining the more than 70,000 already back at work.

Jordan to receive Soviet air defence system early this year

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is to start receiving, early this year, a sophisticated air defence system from the Soviet Union, in accordance with a newly-signed agreement, official sources said Sunday.

Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, in addressing staff cadets at a military academy, announced Saturday that Jordan would start to receive the system early this year.

Commenting on Gen. Sharif Zaid's remarks to the cadets, a government official said the supply of the Soviet weapons would be in accordance with a new agreement signed "very recently" but did not give the exact date.

The official did not disclose the type of weapons expected, or of those already in service of the Jordanian Armed forces. However, it is believed the weapons would be of the SAM anti-aircraft surface-to-air missiles type.

Gen. Sharif Zaid said the Kingdom is negotiating for arms from Britain and France despite the scarcity of Jordan's financial capabilities and economic constraints. "The army chief said the Soviet deal as well as other supplies of arms to the Kingdom, represented "a qualitative jump" in military preparedness and efficiency. He had visited Moscow on Aug. 5.

(Continued on page 3)

Jewish Agency calls off Falasha airlift operation

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Jewish Agency, which is responsible for the immigration of Jews to Israel, announced Sunday that a secret operation to airlift Ethiopian Jews to Israel had apparently been stopped because of the huge publicity it attracted. "As of this moment for all practical purposes the flights have been stopped," Jewish Agency spokesman Shafar Stollman told the Associated Press.

He said a flight scheduled for Sunday had been cancelled after the Belgian charter company handling the flights "claimed their contract had ended this weekend."

According to unsubstantiated reports, over 25,000 Ethiopian Jews, or Falashas, have been transported to Israel under the secret operation, details of which came out last Thursday. Mr. Stollman said premature publicity of the mission aroused the anger of the Ethiopian government, which ordered a stop to the flights.

Foreign news reports said the Falashas were being flown to Israel via European capitals from Sudan after crossing the border on foot. They were among millions of refugees that have fled famine-stricken Ethiopia.

(Continued on page 3)



KENNEDY IN S. AFRICA: U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, who is in South Africa on a fact-finding mission of the racial segregation policy there, Sunday waves to onlookers during a tour of the black township of Soweto near Johannesburg (AP wirephoto)

Iraqi leader, vowing protracted war, urges strong Arab stand against Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sunday declared his people were prepared to carry on their war with Iran and "inflict on it more defeat, losses and destruction."

"Attempts by the Iranian regime to commit aggression anew on Iraq will bring them (Iranians) more catastrophes and devastation," said President Hussein in a national-wide radio and television speech marking the 64th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army.

"In future battles," he threatened, "the Iranians will meet a fate that is far more worse than what they had faced in previous battles."

He was referring to reports about Iran massing troops for a long expected "grand offensive" into the southern Iraqi Basra region.

"The Iranians have been reinforcing (their side of) the front."

line with fresh troops, and have been talking of a protracted war, while manoeuvring with these forces from one sector to another in the north and south in hopes of finding a loophole," he said, alluding to the 1,180-kilometre war-front.

He warned Iran that the "Iraqi armed forces will turn these machinations of aggression into an example of futile defeat and disillusionment."

President Hussein called on all Arabs to "adopt a more candid and a stronger stance against the Iranian aggression. The Arabs must condemn, contain and arrest the evil that the rulers of Tehran have been exporting."

He said that Iraq's attitude of "appeasement has precipitated more arrogance and impetuosity among the Iranian leaders."

"This has aggravated the dangers of war not merely for Iraq but also for all the Arabs," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

Lebanon will continue to insist on total Israeli pullout, Gemayel says

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel said Sunday there was no change in Lebanon's attitude towards deadlocked troops withdrawal talks with Israel, due to resume Monday after an 18-day recess.

"The position of Lebanon concerning the south remains unchanged," Mr. Gemayel told Beirut's diplomatic corps in a traditional New Year speech.

Political sources said Saturday Mr. Gemayel would offer new ideas to try to save the negotiations, which have been bogged down over who should police South Lebanon after Israel pulls out its occupying troops.

Israel has threatened to leave the U.N.-hosted talks and take unilateral action unless Lebanon makes concessions before negotiations reopen at the border village of Naqurah.

But in his speech Mr. Gemayel repeated Lebanon's demand for a

total Israeli withdrawal. He insisted that the Lebanese army should deploy throughout the south and rejected any role for the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia.

"Israel should submit a comprehensive withdrawal plan from all Lebanese territory under its occupation," he said. It should prepare for the withdrawal of its own forces as well as of the other forces which operate under its control.

Israel says it has no faith in the Lebanese army's ability to control "security" in the south. It wants an enlarged United Nations force to deploy north of the Litani River and the SLA militia to patrol along the border.

"Lebanon does not accept, nor will it accept, that U.N. forces be used to separate one Lebanese region from other regions," Mr. Gemayel said.

He said Lebanon saw the U.N.

(Continued on page 3)

PLO-Syrian ties at 'turning point'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria's implicit but clear withdrawal of recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the organisation exists now under the chairmanship of Yasser Arafat and Libya's call for the formation of a new Palestinian organisation Saturday have raised doubts that Palestinian-Syrian relations are nearing a point of no return.

At the opening of the eighth congress of Syria's ruling Baath Party on Saturday, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said he no longer believed that the PLO under the leadership of Mr. Arafat represents the Palestinian people. At the same session, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, number two man to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, urged all Damascus-based factions of the PLO to form a new leadership for the organisation.

Palestinian officials in Amman viewed Mr. Assad's statement as a serious turning point in Palestinian-Syrian relations, strained after Mr. Arafat accused Damascus of inciting and encouraging a rebellion within Palestinian ranks and Syria expelled the PLO chairman in 1983.

"In the past the Syrian president would not go beyond criticising Mr. Arafat and his policies, yet at the same time asserting that the controversy over the PLO chairman's leadership was an internal PLO problem," recalled one Palestinian official.

"Even in private talks with Palestinian and Arab mediators the maximum that Mr. Assad would ask for was the removal of Mr. Arafat as PLO chairman and a change in the overall leadership of the PLO."

Mr. Assad's public withdrawal of Syrian recognition of the PLO, however, seemed to prove Mr. Arafat's charges that Syria was actually aiming to set up a substitute leadership for the PLO. But critics of Mr. Arafat's policies within Palestinian ranks believe that the new Syrian position has emerged as a response to the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman last November and the apparently growing coordination among Jordan, the PLO and Egypt on future political moves to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Arafat supporters, particularly in the ranks of Fateh, the mainstream commando movement and Mr. Arafat's power base within the PLO, say that "Syria has closed all doors to reconciliation with the PLO and has always been determined to form a new organisation in case Damascus failed to exert its control over the existing PLO leadership."

Fateh officials strongly defend their decision to convene the PNC in Amman despite strong Syrian objections. "The PNC session in Amman did not abandon the PLO's revolutionary course and had extended an olive branch to the Syrians," says a senior Fateh official. "But the Syrians, who did not like the new basis that the PNC laid for Palestinian-Syrian relations which emphasised the independence of the Palestinian decision-making process, responded by assassinating the newly-elected PLO Executive Committee member, Fahd Jaw-

asmeh," added the official, who preferred to remain anonymous.

Fateh officials and Mr. Arafat himself have repeatedly accused the Syrians of masterminding the assassination of Mr. Jawasmeh, the deported mayor of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, who was shot dead in Amman by unidentified gunmen last week. However, no information has been disclosed by the Jordanian authorities who are conducting an investigation into the murder.

Apparently, Fateh officials were not expecting that things would go so far with Syria in the wake of the PNC session in Amman, but their critics, particularly officials of a "democratic alliance" within the PLO, believe that Mr. Arafat has given Syria enough pretexts it needs to call for a substitute organisation.

An Amman-based official at the "democratic alliance" told the Jordan Times Sunday that Saturday's statements by Mr. Assad and Major Jalloud reflected the alliance's strongest fears. "We were hoping to avoid reaching such a stage and that was why we

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objected to the convening of the PNC in Amman," he said.

The "democratic alliance", which groups the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party, did not attend the PNC session in Amman as did the Syrian-backed "national alliance" grouping of Saika, the PFLP-GC, the Popular Struggle Front and rebels within the Fateh movement.

While the "democratic alliance" called for a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue to settle all inter-PLO differences before the PNC could be convened, the "national alliance" insisted that Mr. Arafat step down before the council, the highest Palestinian decision-making body, could meet.

The "national alliance" has also refused to join in a dialogue as called for by the "democratic alliance" and Fateh.

Despite its boycott of the PNC in Amman and strong criticism of Mr. Arafat's policies, the "democratic alliance" still recognises the present framework of the PLO. The PFLP of George Habbash, however, has issued several statements describing the council meeting as "illegitimate" and its decisions "null and void."

Yet, the PFLP and other factions in the "democratic alliance" have repeatedly voiced their rejection of all attempts to form a substitute organisation to replace the PLO.

In his speech before the Baathist congress on Saturday, Major Jalloud said Libya was "irritated" by "reluctant Palestinian factions." He clearly indicated that Libya believes it was time for all Palestinian factions opposed to Mr. Arafat to unite under a new umbrella and that Libya will support such a new organisation.

"It is time for the Palestinian factions to stop working within the

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Space weapons form nucleus for renewed U.S.-Soviet talks

By Sidney Weiland
Reuters

GENEVA — The United States and the Soviet Union are embarking on a long haul exercise which the Reagan administration hopes will lead to radical transformation in a superpower strategy that has been unchanged for two decades.

But as new talks begin in the search for an arms control agreement, the Kremlin has made clear it will vigorously resist U.S. plans for a mutual space-based anti-missile system intended to make even the latest nuclear weapons obsolete.

Whether there are even prospects for negotiations will become known when Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko meet in Geneva Monday, after a year-long

standstill on major issues in the East-West arms debate.

Although there have been only ambassadorial contacts since the meeting was announced six weeks ago, vastly different trends have emerged: Moscow wants cuts in existing weaponry, while Washington seeks to cover both offensive and defensive systems.

This could be the nub issue in the two-day talks, but U.S. officials say they expect only preliminary discussions and no showdown. They are convinced Mr. Gromyko will stay and listen.

This is not yet a new negotiation — the foreign ministers are due only to reach a "common understanding... on such negotiations," including an agenda — but Western experts say they will obviously get into major issues of substance.

"This is the beginning of a long

and complicated process," President Reagan's National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said last week. "The issues involved go to the very heart of national security interests of both countries."

While Mr. Gromyko's main thrust is expected to be on space weapons, U.S. officials will press for a mechanism to reopen talks on strategic and intermediate-range missiles that were broken off by Moscow in late 1983.

They want a two-track format: one for offensive weapons, the other for defensive systems.

If Mr. Reagan's controversial "star wars" strategic defence initiative (SDI) is pushed through, it would create a vast network of lasers and other space shields to intercept and destroy missiles long before they approach intended targets.

Mr. Reagan has refused to

make the initial research programme a bargaining chip at Geneva, but has offered to consider mutual restraints on testing if negotiations begin. Deployments will be for a future president to negotiate.

U.S. officials say Mr. Shultz will try to keep discussions on space as general as possible. Mr. Gromyko is expected to call for a moratorium on all space weapons testing.

The SDI research effort is budgeted to cost a massive \$26 billion over five years, but this is only a fraction of the cost of building an actual defence system, something that could take up to 30 years.

Mr. Reagan has held out prospects for sharing research with the Soviet Union, largely in an attempt to make it easier for Moscow to accept a switch in arms priorities that would impose a cri-

pling drain on stretched Soviet resources.

Cash reasons may be dominant in Moscow's sharp reaction to SDI and its attempts to freeze anti-satellite testing.

Another reason is that an effective space shield would end the formidable first-strike capability of the Soviet Union's 1,400 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Since the early 1960s, American security has rested on the concept that an aggressor should know he faced unacceptably devastating retaliation, outweighing any first-strike gain.

The rationale of mutual assured destruction (MAD), also embraced by Moscow, was long regarded as the most persuasive deterrent available, a so-called "balance of terror."

The Reagan administration

holds that its validity has been undermined by Soviet offensive superiority, by Moscow's own efforts to build anti-missile and anti-satellite systems, and by scientific advances that make space-based defence feasible.

The switch advocated by Washington would replace MAD with mutual assured security. The idea is this would provide the ultimate deterrent, making it pointless to build costly missiles, most of which would fail to get through the net.

Scientists are arguing about how thorough space defence would be, and over how many attacking missiles would survive.

Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko warned this weekend that the "star wars" system would create an "irreversible situation... fraught with the most baneful consequences."

U.S. allies in Europe are worried that European-based medium-range missiles may get second-class treatment at Geneva, and they are anxious about the implications if the MAD concept is jettisoned.

MAD is part of a NATO alliance flexible response strategy that is based heavily on defending Western Europe.

Some European arms experts fear "star wars" could "decouple" the United States from Europe: If U.S. cities become virtually invulnerable, they argue, maybe Washington's interest in risking nuclear war to defend Europe will slacken.

High U.S. officials led by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger have said such ideas are ridiculous.

Shultz arrives in Geneva on 'mission of peace', page 8

Arab Bank denies plan to reopen W. Bank branches

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Bank categorically denied Sunday that the bank has finalised plans to reopen its branches in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dismissing a report by Israel Television last week that the bank will soon reopen the seven branches — six in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip — a spokesman for the bank said: "It is another form of Israeli propaganda aimed at sounding out our reaction."

"There had been a number of overtures on the part of the Israelis to us hinting that they would welcome the reopening of the branches," said Tawfik Khalil, a senior manager of the Arab Bank's International Division. "However, nothing serious has developed and at the moment we have no plans whatsoever of reopening the branches."

The Israeli Television report followed a statement by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin that his government would welcome the establishment of an Arab bank in the occupied territories provided that it will not be used as a channel to support the Palestinian population living under the Israeli occupation.

Mr. Rabin, replying to a motion by a Knesset member during a session of the Israeli parliament, was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post newspaper that tentative approval for an Arab bank in the occupied territories has already been given.

"But it would not be given definitely if some outside body, from

the West or East, intends to use it as a facade," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying.

The issue of setting up an Arab bank as part of Israel's moves "to raise the quality of life" of the Palestinians living under the occupation was raised after Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited Washington in October. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was reported to have urged Mr. Peres to "take steps to improve the quality of life" of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Some political analysts interpreted the Israeli Television report as aiming at probing whether the Arab Bank was interested in reopening its branches in the occupied territories.

The Arab Bank closed the branches — Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin, Tulkaram, Hebron and Gaza City — following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war which resulted in the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. However, the bank has been maintaining its staff of about 80 in these branches and paying them salaries which amount to about \$1 million annually.

The bank also owns some real estate assets in the occupied territories and the existing staff members are handling a small number of transactions related to discounted bills and outstanding dealings since 1967. Mr. Khalil said Sunday.

"For all official and practical purposes these branches have been non-functional since the Israeli occupation in 1967," he said. Mr. Khalil recalled that despite the closure of the branches the bank had met all its financial obligations to depositors and account-holders from the West Bank and Gaza through its Amman office in 1967.

The Arab Bank had also closed down its two branches in Jaffa and Haifa following the creation of the Jewish state in 1947 and the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

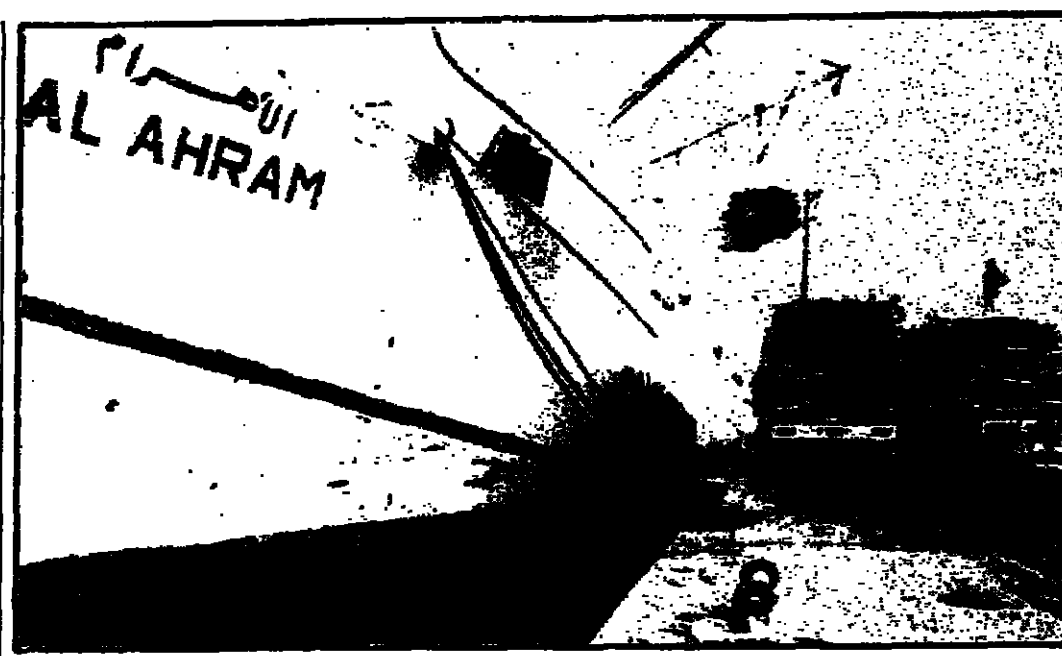
The Arab Bank was established in Jerusalem in 1930 by the late Abdul Hameed Shoman who passed away in 1974. His son, Abdul Majed Shoman, heads the bank now as its chairman and general manager. He is also a member of the Upper House of Parliament and the Palestine National Council (PNC).

The bank, which started out with a capital of 15,000 Palestinian pounds (then equivalent to 15,000 sterling pounds) with one branch in Jerusalem, has grown into an international banking network with over \$12 billion in assets in 1984.

It maintains 40 overseas branches in countries including Britain, the United States and France in addition to Lebanon, Bahrain, Jaffa, Oman and North Yemen.

It also owns two offshore banking units in Egypt, one in Bahrain and one in Singapore.

In Jordan, over 30 branches of the bank offer various international and domestic banking services. The Arab Bank has a number of sister institutions, subsidiaries and affiliates in Switzerland, Britain and Luxembourg in Europe and Tunis, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon in the Arab World.



FOOD TO ETHIOPIA: Workers at the Mediterranean port of Alexandria Monday load U.S.-donated food — a total of 2,300 metric tons — on the ship Al Ahram which will take it to an Ethiopian port on the Red Sea for drought and famine-affected refugees (AP wirephoto)

Embassy documents in Tehran reveal American interest in Soviet minorities

TEHRAN (R) — Shredded documents from the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, pieced together by Iranian students, reveal plans for gathering sensitive information on minority groups in the Soviet Union, according to the Iranian News Agency IRNA.

One of 112 pages of classified documents summarised by IRNA quoted the then U.S. undersecretary of State Warren Christopher as saying in a cable dated Aug. 27, 1979 and marked "secret."

"USG (U.S. government) is engaged in a long-term effort begun in mid-1978 to increase USG knowledge and understanding of Soviet and ethnic nationalities."

He said: "Over 100 different peoples reside within Soviet borders and, given social and dem-

ographic changes now taking place, importance of minority nationalities could increase and may pose problems for the Soviet leadership."

The documents are the third set concerning the Soviet Union to be released since students took over the embassy five years ago and seized 52 American hostages. So far 42 volumes, containing more than 1,700 documents which the Iranians say were classified information, have been published.

IRNA said that in one of the latest documents, the last U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, Bruce Laingen, quoted Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Vinogradov as saying: "Islam was an inadequate ideology as a unifying and governing force in a country like Iran."

The first secretary of the Soviet

embassy in Washington was also quoted by Former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance as saying in 1979 that Islam was "the most difficult thing — very hard to deal with."

According to a paper circulated by the British delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 1979, the Soviet Union was concerned about Islamic fundamentalism among Muslims in the Soviet Union.

In New Delhi the same year, former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington was told by the Indian foreign minister that he found "strong indications" on a visit to Moscow that the Russians were concerned about Islamic fundamentalism.

According to IRNA, the document said "they were worried... that the virus might spread to the Soviet Muslim population."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab women seminar opens

DAMASCUS (Petra) — An Arab women seminar on the eradication of illiteracy and adult education opened here Sunday. Nearly 25 experts on the subject from a number of Arab countries will discuss means of promoting the social and educational status of Arab women and review better means of eradicating illiteracy and educating illiterate adults. The experts will discuss, during their four-day meetings, problems confronting the development of Arab women's abilities to contribute effectively to their countries' projects.

Arafat ends visit to S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat left Jeddah Sunday after talks with the new chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Sharifuddin Pirzada. A PLO spokesman in Jeddah, contacted by telephone from Bahrain, declined to give Mr. Arafat's destination or details of the talks. The PLO chief had arrived in Jeddah Saturday night from Dubai. Mr. Pirzada was elected to the post last month at a meeting in Sana'a of foreign ministers from the 45-member Islamic organisation. He succeeded Mr. Habib Chait of Tunisia.

Israeli minister barred from testifying

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's supreme court Sunday upheld a ban barring an Israeli government minister from testifying on the character of cabinet colleague Ariel Sharon, who is fighting a libel suit against Time magazine. Court officials said. The magazine appealed to the supreme court to overturn an Israeli attorney general's ruling that prevented Police Minister Chaim Bar Lev, a former chief of staff, from testifying in the trial. The court Sunday rejected the appeal. Sharon, defence minister during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, is suing Time for \$50 million, charging it libelled him in a report on the killings carried out by Lebanese Falangists in the Sabra and Shatila Camps in Beirut in September that year.

Israel to take part in Cairo Book Fair

CAIRO (R) — Israel will take part in Cairo's annual book fair later this month after an absence of two years. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said Sunday. He said Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson had expressed his government's thanks to Egypt for making it possible for Israel to have a stand at the fair, which opens on Jan. 22. Israel was not allowed to take part in the 1983 fair because of its invasion of Lebanon the previous year. Last year, Egypt said Israel had applied too late and no stands were available.

U.K. church envoy arrives in Libya today

LONDON (R) — A special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury will fly to Libya Monday for fresh talks aimed at winning the release of four detained British Christians, a spokesman for the Anglican Church leader said Sunday.

Terry Waite, who visited Tripoli last month on the same mission, is expected to take a further message from Archbishop Robert Runcie to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, church sources said.

Col. Qaddafi declared in a speech on Friday that he favoured releasing the four men but that only the Libyan People's Con-

gresses could decide their fate. The congresses began a series of meetings at the weekend.

The Britons were detained when relations between the two countries were broken last April after a London policeman was killed by shots fired from the Libyan embassy at anti-Qaddafi demonstrators in the street outside.

They are Alan Russell, a teacher of expatriate children, Malcolm Anderson, an oil company technician, Robin Plummer, a British telecom engineer, and Michael

Berdinner, a lecturer in English at Tripoli University.

The archbishop's spokesman said he did not know how long Waite would stay in Tripoli on his second visit.

Church sources said Waite would take proposals designed to alleviate Col. Qaddafi's avowed concern over conditions for Libyan students living in Britain.

The plan is for a "hot line" to church leaders which could be used by Libyans needing assistance in this country, the sources said.

Libya reportedly plotting to smuggle exiles

LONDON (R) — A Sunday newspaper said Sunday British police are investigating a Libyan government plot to smuggle political opponents out of Britain after dragging them.

The Observer said it had obtained a copy of an alleged confession written in a Cairo jail by Briton Anthony Gill, held by the Egyptians since last November's assassination of a former Libyan prime minister.

In this document Gill said up to four groups of exiles had been mentioned, at a cost for each operation "from 100,000 to 200,000 (\$115,000 to 220,000), the paper said.

Gill, 48, asserted the Libyans had asked him "if the risk was too great to bring out (the exiles) by private plane with a medical officer, would elimination be in order?"

Scotland Yard police headquarters would not comment Sunday on the report. A spokesman reiterated that officers from the anti-terrorism squad had travelled to Cairo and interviewed Gill with fellow-Briton Godfrey Shiner there.

They made three arrests on their return. Two men were released Sunday and a third is still being detained.

Israel uncertain over Syrian intentions in South Lebanon

By Ethan Bronner
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israeli leaders, preparing to resume talks on a withdrawal from Lebanon, are trying to decipher the intentions of Syria, which has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon and great influence with its government.

The Israelis went into the talks with Lebanon on Nov. 7 believing Syria was ready to sanction a deal which would produce an orderly withdrawal of the 10,000 Israeli troops in South Lebanon.

Talks quickly became deadlocked over the question of who should police the area evacuated by Israel. The two sides met again on Monday, 18 days after the last session ended, but Israel has threatened to break off the talks if Beirut does not accept its main demand for the deployment of an enlarged U.N. force in the northern part of the area.

Senior Israeli officials say the threat was partly an exercise in brinkmanship aimed at pushing Lebanon, and its political patron, Syria, into concessions.

"I would not call this a tailored crisis. There was genuine exhaustion. But we realised we would not hear Syria's position until there was a crisis," a top official told Reuters.

But the signals from Beirut and Damascus have confused the Israelis, who are considering unilateral action — partial withdrawal to limit the area in which Israeli troops are exposed to local guerrilla attacks.

Some Israeli officials fear that this would mean Israeli troops staying in Lebanon for a long time because they believe the chaos caused by a partial withdrawal would make further early pullbacks impossible.

Israeli troops invaded Lebanon in 1982 with the stated aim of driving Palestinian commandos out of the range of northern Israel.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel visited Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last week but little has emerged publicly from their talks. Lebanese government sources told Reuters in Beirut afterwards that new proposals would be presented at the withdrawal

talks on Monday but many Israeli policy-makers are still not optimistic.

The points at issue in the talks are the roles of the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNILF), the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, and the Lebanese army.

Israel is demanding the deployment of an enlarged UNILF in areas north of the zone at present controlled by U.N. troops, and the retention of the SLA to police the territory closest to the border.

Lebanon insists the Lebanese army and UNILF should deploy right down to the border and that the SLA should play no role.

Israeli leaders had thought U.S. diplomacy by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy would produce results from the Syrians.

But both Mr. Murphy's shuttle diplomacy and the U.N.-hosted withdrawal talks at the Lebanese border village of Naqura quickly reached stalemate.

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres put forward three possible explanations for the deadlock:

— Syria has lost interest in an Israeli withdrawal, believing it better to keep Israeli soldiers tied up in South Lebanon, suffering daily attacks by local Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas.

— Mr. Assad has been preoccupied by other, largely internal, political issues.

— Mr. Assad responds only to a crisis.

Betting on the second and third possibilities, the optimists say that a deal might now be in the making since they believe Mr. Assad is no longer preoccupied with domestic matters, and a crisis has emerged in the talks.

Other officials prefer the first suggestion, that Mr. Assad has no desire to strike a deal with Israel.

They believe it is in Syria's interest to prevent unilateral action by Israel, since the bloodbath they believe might follow would be Syria's problem, but they conclude Damascus is determined to see Israel leave Lebanon without any political gains.

If they are right, Israel is left with options which Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has called

"bad, worse and worst". It can stay where it is with a front line on the Awali River, pull back completely to the border, or — widely seen as the likeliest — withdraw partly.

Senior officials and generals are considering a move south from the Awali to a new line some 25 kilometres north of the border. This would reduce the hostile population under Israeli control but keep northern Israel out of range of rocket attacks.

The likelihood of the partial withdrawal, the compromise solution, is partly due to the divided nature of Israel's government in which power is shared by the Labour Party and right-wing Likud Bloc.

Likud ministers, who launched the Lebanon war, are not ready for a full withdrawal, believing that Palestinian commandos would return immediately. Many Labour ministers favour a withdrawal to the border, using air and sea power and the SLA to police the strip just north of the frontier.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
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BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1415 KHZ
06:00 Newswatch 06:30 The High-Flier
06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Letterbox 07:45 Reconnecting of the Week 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 Plans to Sate 09:00 World News 09:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The High-Flier 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Waiteguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Peabody's Choice 12:00 Today Summary 12:15 Science in Action 12:30 Music News 12:50 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 The Art of Gerald Moore 13:30 Album Time 14:00 Radio News 14:15 Just a Minute 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Tippet At 20 16:00 On-air 16:45 Talk 17:00 Radio News 17:15 Plans to Sate 17:45 The Art of Gerald Moore 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Putting Politics in Place 18:30 Sweet Soul Music 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 Jazz Score 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newswatch 20:30 Wives and Daughters 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Peabody's Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sports International 23:00 World News UK 23:15 Code Porter And His Music 23:30 Rock Salad 24:00 World News 24:10 Focus Today 24:25 Book Choice 24:30 Financial News 24:50 Reflections 25:05 Sports Roundup 25:15 Sweet Soul Music 01:30 Just a Minute

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of oil paintings by Nawaf Badar Al-Jadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).

* An exhibition of architectural engineering at Yarmouk University (until Jan. 31).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre ... tel. 6610267
American Centre ... 44371
American Centre Library ... 44320
British Council ... 361478
French Cultural Centre ... 37099
Goethe Institute ... 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre ... 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre ... 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 39777
Haya Arts Centre ... 66515
Husseini Youth City ... 667181
Y.W.C.A. ... 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. ... 664251
Amman Municipal Library ... 36111
University of Jordan Library ... 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mummies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, statues, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalists, artists, Musicians, Jabal Lawadieh. Opening hours: 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum):

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. 0973520, where it should always be verified.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawadieh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabal Amman, 25383.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 ... Fajr
06:32 ... Sunrise
14:44 ... Dhuhr
17:05 ... Maghreb
18:27 ... Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

ARRIVALS

09:30 ... Agaba (RJ)
09:45 ... Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
09:55 ... Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)
09:55 ... Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:10 ... Laraca, Damascus (RJ)
10:20 ... Beirut (RJ)
14:40 ... Kuwait (RJ)
15:10 ... Jeddah, Medina (SV)
16:35 ... Baghdad, Istanbul (IJ)
18:30 ... Bangkok (RJ)
18:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
18:45 ... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
22:20 ... Cairo (RJ)
22:30 ... Baghdad (RJ)
00:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
01:10 ... Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

05:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
07:00 ... Beirut (RJ)
07:15 ... Agaba (RJ)
08:45 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:00 ... Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
14:30 ... Cairo (RJ)
14:40 ... Jeddah, Medina (SV)
17:25 ... Istanbul, Baghdad (IJ)
19:30 ... Kuwait (RJ)
19:40 ... Damascus, Laraca (RJ)
19:40 ... Dhahran (RJ)
19:40 ... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:00 ... Jeddah (RJ)
20:15 ... Dubai (RJ)
20:35 ... Cairo (RJ)
21:10 ... Baghdad (RJ)
23:30 ... Cairo (MS)
23:30 ... Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Ajlun port:

* Bouda
* Al-Bindi
* Karez
* Mikail Mushlik
* Agatha
* Lotalah
* Thina Zinc

Amn Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jls
Belgian franc ... 64
Dutch guilder ... 13.4/ 14.1
Egyptian guinea ... 302.5/ 305.6
French franc ... 41.9/ 42.1
Irish dirr ... 340.6/ 346.6
Italian lire (for 100) ... 20.8/ 21
Japanese yen (for 100) ... 159.8/ 160.7
Kuwaiti dinar ... 1327.6/ 1333.3
Lebanese lira ... 41.9/ 43.5
Omani riyal ... 1165/ 1173.3
Omani riyal ... 111/ 111.5
Saudi riyal ... 113/ 113.7
Swedish crown ... 44.9/ 45.1
Swiss franc ... 154/ 155
Syrian lira ... 38.9/ 40.1
UAE dirham ... 110.2/ 110.7
U.S. sterling pound ... 466.7/ 469.5
U.S. dollar ... 405.5/ 407.5
W. German mark ... 128/ 128.8

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fine, with clouds at different altitudes. Winds will be southeasterly moderate, in Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Low/high temperature in deg.C.
Amman ... 21/ 21.3
Aqaba ... 11/ 21
Dahesh ... 1/ 14
Jordan Valley ... 9/ 22
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance ... 193, 775111
First aid, fire, police ... 199
Blood bank ... 775121
Civil Defence rescue ... 661111
Fire headquarters ... 22904-3
Police rescue ... 192, 2111, 37177
Police headquarters ... 66171-4
Traffic police ... 56390-1
Electric Power Co. ... 36381-2
Municipal water service ... 771125-4
Queen Alia Int. Airport ... (09) 53553

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre ... 813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 44281-4
Aidil Maternity, J. Amman ... 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 42362
Maltesa, J. Amman ... 26140
Palestine, Shmeisani ... 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 843485
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein ... 667158
Al-Muhsen Hospital ... 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali ... 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 664164
Italian, Al-Muhsen ... 777101-3
Al-Basim, J. Ashrafieh ... 775111
Army, Marks ... 91611

GENERAL

Jordan Television ... 773111
Radio Jordan ... 774111
Ministry of Tourism ... 42311
Hotel complaints ... 666412
Price complaints ... 661176
Telephone:
Information ... 12
Jordan and Middle East calls ... 10
Overseas calls ... 17
Cable or telegram ... 10
Repair service ... 71

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.
Apple (double red) ... 230/ 180
Apple (golden) ... 230/ 180
Apple (stark) ... 230/ 180
Banana ... 280/ 240
Banana (Mukammal) ... 240/ 210
Beans ... 350/ 300
Broad beans ... 720/ 680
Cabbage ... 120/ 90
Carrot ... 640/ 580
Carrot

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four die in highway accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four people were killed and four others were injured in a road accident which occurred Saturday on the Amman-Zarqa highway. The accident occurred when a private car, heading towards Zarqa, was overtaken and hit by a large lorry. As a result, the truck driver lost control of his vehicle and crossed the road divide to the other side of the highway hitting a service car coming from Zarqa towards Amman.

Jordanian-Iraqi team to review trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee is to hold its meeting in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Jan. 19 to review the trade exchange process between Jordan and Iraq and to discuss the setting up of joint projects. The establishment of a Jordanian-Iraqi industrial company with a capital of about JD 20 million will also be one of the topics to be discussed by the joint committee. Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani will head the Jordanian side to the joint committee's meetings.

WHO delegation due Jan. 12

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) is due here on Jan. 12 for a week-long visit and talks with Jordanian health officials. The delegation is expected to discuss cooperation in health services and management in hospitals. The delegation comprises specialists in nursing, orthopaedics, gynaecology and obstetrics.

Zarqa courts refer 25 youths to centre

ZARQA (Petra) — Juvenile courts last year placed 25 youths under behavioural control and supervision in Zarqa district, according to Hamdullah Abul Samen, director of the Zarqa Social Development Department. He said that the department held 122 sessions to give advice to juvenile delinquents in accordance with requests received from judges and that parents of the juvenile delinquents were present in most sessions. The department also conducted social and economic studies on 408 juvenile cases in the past year, he added.

Balqa prepares for Arbor Day

SALT (Petra) — The agricultural department in Balqa has made arrangements for holding 'Arbor Day' celebrations on Jan. 15. According to Mohammad Al Lawzi, the department's acting director, public and private organisations will take part in the tree-planting celebrations in the industrial zone of Salt and near the schools and housing projects and cemeteries. At least 15,000 forest tree saplings will be planted during the celebration, Mr. Lawzi said.

PLO-Syrian ties at turning point

(Continued from page 1) framework of a 'national alliance' or a 'democratic alliance', he said. "If the Palestinians want to be effective they would have to unite in one new front against the Palestinian right-wing," he added. "Democratic alliance" officials in Amman viewed Major Jalloud's statement as an indirect pressure on them to join in a new PLO, and said they "refuse to succumb to such pressures and will never accept the formation of a substitute PLO."

"It is true that we are not in a very strong position, but our position in Syria will be much better if Fatah agrees to resume its dialogue with us," said one "democratic alliance" official.

Ever since the conclusion of the PNC meeting in Amman, the alliance has been urging Fatah to resume a reconciliation dialogue that came to a halt when the Fatah leadership decided to convene the council in Amman without the participation of the factions represented in the alliance. Fatah says that it is ready to resume the dialogue but rejects the alliance's demand that another PNC session be held which will be considered as the 17th session of the council in place of the Amman meeting. Fatah officials, who seem to have taken the Syrian and Libyan statements seriously, say they are not worried over the emergence of a new PLO "because it will lack popular Palestinian support."

According to a senior Fatah official, "unless the 'democratic alliance' agrees to join in such an organisation which will be a Syrian surrogate which will be rejected by the Palestinian masses." The official expressed fears that the PFLP might succumb to Syrian pressures and join in a parallel organisation — a charge that PFLP officials repeatedly deny. "Democratic alliance" officials as well as political analysts in Amman, however, believe that the political line that Mr. Arafat will pursue and the progress of peace efforts in the area will be the main factors in determining the actual polarisation in the Palestinian arena.

To be continued Tuesday

Jordan to receive Soviet system

(Continued from page 1) provide the Kingdom with French arms. However, he said, negotiations were still underway.

The spokesman said that Jordan was mainly seeking to buy French "Mistral" anti-aircraft missiles which will be available for export by 1986.

Another French source told the Jordan Times there was no agreement signed between Jordan and France to supply 13 French-

manufactured Mirage fighter jets, as previously reported.

British Defence Minister Michael Heseltine also visited Jordan last October during which he held talks on the possibilities of arms supplies to the Kingdom. A British embassy official refused to comment Sunday on whether an agreement has been reached to provide Jordan with British "Javelin" anti-aircraft missiles which are similar to the American St-

ingers. During a visit to Jordan by a Chinese military delegation last month, a spokesman for the Chinese embassy here said the Kingdom did not yet approach China for arms.

China had announced it was ready to provide the Kingdom with whatever it could of arms and to support the formation of a Jordanian People's Army.

Falasha airlift called off

(Continued from page 1) Moises, after a Jewish Agency official revealed part of the story in an interview with a small local weekly.

The official, Yehuda Dominitz, was suspended from his job Thursday but, Jewish Agency Chairman Leon Dulzin said Saturday that Mr. Dominitz was returning to work.

Mr. Dulzin told British Broadcasting Corporation radio Friday that a "couple" more weeks were needed to fly out an estimated 8,000 Jews remaining in Ethiopia.

The Washington Post report, as quoted by the Israeli media, says American officials say the Israelis should have waited another month before publishing news of the operation.

The Israeli media has quoted officials here estimating the cost of the mission at \$350 million. At least \$60 million of that figure was expected to be raised from American Jews by a special campaign of the United Jewish Appeal.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet devoted "a big part" of its weekly meeting Sunday to the operation.

Iraqi leader vows protracted war

(Continued from page 1)

scores of oil tankers and bulk carriers near Kharg, and the avowed aim of undermining Iran's economy by blocking its oil exports. Iran has been retaliating by accusing the Arab Gulf countries of pro-Iraqi sympathies and raiding oil tankers in neutral Gulf waters close to Arab coastlines.

"The rulers of Iran, having failed in their machinations against Iraq, are now trying to develop new means of harm and destruction against the entire Arab Nation," President Hussein said.

President Hussein said the "Arab leaders must take a responsible political stance, based on

long-range and devoid of any short-term and petty calculations, against Iran."

He also urged unidentified international powers to boycott Iran, contending that the fact that "some powers have been dealing with Iran has encouraged the Tehran rulers to pursue their policy of aggression and export confusion and subversion."

Iraq has declared its readiness to make peace with Iran, but the Iranians have insisted on the overthrow of the Iraqi government as a condition for ending the 51-month-old war.

President Hussein also called on the world community to help end Iran's "abnormal policies."

Lebanon to insist on pullout

(Continued from page 1) Await by Monday to back up its claim that the army was capable of taking over the south.

But disputes between rival militias battling in the Kharrout have held up even the deployment of police units due to have pacified the area before the army moved in.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad threw his weight behind the security plan when he received Mr. Gemayel in Damascus last month.

The world nations should "revise their attitude towards Iran and deal with it in a way that might end Iran's abnormal policies," he said. He called on the world community to adopt decisive, quick measures to guarantee that Iraqi prisoners-of-war in Iran are treated according to the Geneva Conventions and international laws.

Otherwise, "Iraq will resort to appropriate measures to punish the criminals," he said.

The Iraqi president did not elaborate but said "one must not think that we will treat Iranian prisoners-of-war on a reciprocal basis."

شريف زيد



SHARIF ZAID TOURS MU'TA: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid (left) Sunday visited Mu'ta University and met with its president and senior staff. Sharif Zaid was briefed on the progress of work for setting up various faculties and training programmes in various specialisations. The university offers courses mainly in military fields. Sharif Zaid later toured the different sections of the university campus and met with teachers and employees. Sharif Zaid, who is chairman of the university's Royal Commission, was accompanied on the visit by a number of senior army officers (Petra photo)

Georgetown delegation aims to clarify, explain Arab position to U.S. citizens

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — President of the United States Overseas Briefing Programme (OBP) at Washington's Georgetown University said Sunday that the American policy towards the Middle East issue is totally inadequate to promote peace. Mr. Joe Anderson also said that the United States' present attitude would damage Israeli security in the long run.

Mr. Anderson is currently heading a 12-member delegation on a week-long visit to Amman as part of a fact-finding tour in the region sponsored by the International Leadership Foundation (ILF). In an interview with the Jordan Times, he said that American dialogue on the Middle East is one

sided with so much emphasis on the Israeli perspective that the general public knows little about the Arab side. Thus, ill-informed American citizens have been unable to instruct their leaders accordingly and this imbalanced policy, Mr. Anderson said, has resulted in the alienation of our Arab friends and has damaged American interests in the region and destroyed the U.S. credibility to serve as a strong, neutral mediator.

Mr. Anderson added that American policy has unfortunately damaged the prospects for a comprehensive peace settlement with the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

The delegation, when it returns to the United States, plans to launch discussion programmes on the Middle East situation and will publish pamphlets and papers in order to clarify the situation to American citizens. The team also hopes to set up a vigorous and intensive programme including hosting student representatives from Jordan and other Arab countries to "educate" ordinary American citizens about what is really going on in the Middle East, Mr. Anderson said.

46,000 secondary students to sit first term tawjihi exam

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 46,000 students of the third secondary class in both the academic and vocational streams will start taking the first term tawjihi exam on Jan. 19 which will last for eight days. Last year more than 47,800 students took the mid-year tawjihi exam, according to Ministry of Education sources.

Mid-year exams at all private and public schools in Jordan began Sunday. The session will last until Jan. 15 when schools break up for the mid-year recess, expected to last 20 days.

Distribution of school uniforms for boys to start next month

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A commission formed by the Cabinet has been discussing since early this year a plan for producing and distributing school uniforms for boys. The commission, which includes the minister of education, the minister of social development, the minister of industry and trade and the minister of supply formed a committee to prepare a draft on the possibilities of carrying out such a plan.

The objectives for this plan, set by the Ministry of Education, are as follows: Developing positive attitudes in the boys towards the simplicity of dress, developing their sense of aesthetics and improving their behaviour, enabling them at the same time to carry out school and practical life activities comfortably; Enabling the boys to adapt themselves socially through equal outlook, excluding or minimizing discrimination among students; Creating an educational atmosphere in schools regardless of socio-economic status, to help the students to develop emotionally; Encouraging national products and industry; Making it easy for any family in Jordan to provide their children with ready-made uniforms or prepared according to set instructions.

Too little time

This plan was supposed to be carried in September, at the beginning of the academic year. The textile factories and the manufacturers, however, were not able to supply such a large quantity of uniforms in such a limited time. The uniforms were designed for all male students in Jordan from primary to secondary schools both private and public.

Such an impossibility was well understood by the Ministry of Education which compiled and reconsidered the plan. While the ministry felt that the plan should definitely be carried out, it seemed profitable even for the students' sakes to proceed gradually.

Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of education at the Ministry of Education, told the Jordan Times that factories and manufacturers have now set a new deadline for themselves, and will provide school uniforms for all male students in Amman by next February, and for the rest of the country by next September.

Notices with designs of the uniforms have been distributed to all students in the country, giving their parents a choice of waiting for the ready-made suits or preparing them themselves, according to their financial situation. "The prices which will be set on the ready-made uniforms will be decided by the Ministry of Supply," Dr. Jaradat said, "but the Ministry of Education has suggested maximum prices which, hopefully, should not be exceeded JD 4 for primary school students, JD 5 for intermediate and JD 6 for secondary pupils' uniforms", he added.

"One type of uniform will do for the whole academic year", Dr. Jaradat said, "since the style is practical for both winter and summer, and, during winter, the boys will just wear some warm clothing underneath."

Fujian economic team holds technical exchange talks

Jordanian company to sign \$ 60m gas turbine contract with Chinese delegation

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A \$60 million contract is expected to be signed Monday between the Fujian economic delegation, representing the Fujian Province of the People's Republic of China, and the United Trading Group (UTG), a leading private Jordanian company in Amman.

The agreement to be signed is a turnkey project which will be implemented by UTG in Fujian province for building three gas turbine generators. The turnkey project, which will be handed over to the Chinese government after one year, a type of mobile power plant with three gas turbine generators, each with a capacity of 75 mega watts.

The Fujian delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, is discussing with various governmental sectors and private enterprises the possibility of increasing technological cooperation between Jordan and the People's Republic of China in general and with Fujian Province in particular. "In fact, this visit is a follow up to Chinese President Li Xiannian's official visit to Jordan," Mr. Zhang Yi, vice governor of the province, told the Jordan Times. During the Chinese president's visit to Jordan last year, he met with His Majesty King Hussein and they agreed to expand and develop further technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Fujian economic delegation met Saturday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and discussed various aspects of cooperation between Jordan and China, in line with the philosophy of "South-South cooperation."

Mr. Zhang Yi said that during the meetings with Prince Hassan, we discussed the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of expertise, especially that Jordan has highly qualified expertise in the software field.

The United Trading Group (UTG) is a private limited company owned by Jordanians. It has 43 operational offices in 19 countries all over the world and is carrying out specialised projects in China, Thailand and Malaysia.

Among the different specialised projects that the company is implementing, UTG signed an agreement last July with the Ministry of Energy in China to construct and operate five nuclear power

stations in different provinces of China.

The cost of this project is \$7 billion and the company is still studying the possibility of contracting with different European companies to supply the expertise needed to carry out such a sophisticated and technical project. According to the contract, UTG will hand over the five nuclear power stations to the Chinese government after ten years.

UTG has also signed other agreements with the Fujian economic delegation. One is to construct two hotel complexes in Fuzhou, the capital of the Fujian Province, and the other in Niamen. Mr. Souhail Kharouba, a senior management official at UTG said in an interview with the Jordan Times, "The hotel complex to be built will be a four or five star hotel and will cost \$30 million," he added.

Information centre

Another contract signed between UTG and the Fujian economic delegation is for building up an international information centre. "This centre is designed to be a computerised and highly technical centre and will cost around \$15 million," Mr. Kharouba said. "In order to operate such a centre, we will ask the help of certain computer companies to help supply us with the necessary equipment and the technical advice," he added.

As part of the delegation's discussions and meetings with various governmental officials, the

Fujian economic delegation met with Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and discussed the possibility of increasing technical assistance and economic cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting with Dr. Anani, the delegation discussed the possibility of buying potash, phosphates and fertilisers from Jordan and in return China will sell to Jordan various goods which are needed in the Jordanian market.

Cooperation with Alia

The Fujian economic delegation also met with Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, president Mahmoud Bakar and discussed the possibility of signing an agreement with Alia to provide the new Fujian airline with managerial advice and ground maintenance.

"We set up our new local airline in Fujian province and we would like to consult a prominent airline such as Alia about the types of aircrafts and kinds of management needed," Mr. Zhang explained.

The Fujian economic delegation comprises Mr. Zhang Yi, vice governor of the province, Hsing Jiang, vice secretary general of provincial government, Lan Ya Shi, general manager of the Fujian Investment and Enterprises Corporation, Chiu Yung Zhang, general manager of China-Fujian Corporation, Gao Niao, general manager of the Niamen International Information Development Co., Yang Guo Ying, advisor to Fujian investment and enterprise corp., and Wi Li Ping, secretary to Fujian provincial government. During their visit to Jordan, which started five days ago, the delegation also met with the minister of energy, the chairman of Petra Bank, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan and public and private business officials.

Municipalities' budgets reach JD 44.9m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total budgets of municipalities in Jordan amounted to JD 44,989 million in the past year, according to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. The ministry reported that the total revenues of these municipalities, which number 135, was JD 17,421,419. The balance is usually covered through aid and loans.

Agricultural council discusses apples, crop rotation patterns

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Agricultural Council has received a report from an ad hoc committee on growing apples in the Shobak district in southern Jordan and on providing sufficient water for the project. The council had earlier decided to grow apples on 4,200 dunums of land in Shobak to produce nearly 8,000 tonnes of apples annually.

At its meeting, which was chaired by Agriculture Minister Mohammad Al Bashir, the council also heard a report on a project for the production of wheat and animal feed in Sahel Al Suwyan region, covering 13,000 dunums. The council members discussed the application of the proposed agricultural patterns for the Jordan Valley, irrigated and rain-fed regions. The application of the new methods will start in April in the Jordan Valley and in July in the rain-fed regions. It was announced in a statement after the meeting. The statement said that the Ministry of Agriculture will soon issue instructions on the type of crops to be grown in each area.

ACOR marks first construction stage; JD 170,000 needed to complete centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The two-year-old international effort to finance and construct a permanent building in Amman for the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) passed another important milestone Sunday, when several dozen dedicated supporters of ACOR and Jordanian archaeology braved the cold winds of a west Amman hilltop to participate in the cement-pouring ceremony for the new ACOR building.

After a brief progress report on the new building and the international fund-raising effort to finance it, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid hoisted a cement-laden spade and ceremoniously dumped it into a wooden frame marking the sub-basement levels of the new building. Several other members of the ACOR building fund-raising committee, which Prince Ra'ad heads, also tried their hand at pouring cement, along with Director of Antiquities, Dr. Adnan Hadidi, and representatives of local and foreign institutions who are involved in the fund-raising or construction of the building.

The new ACOR building is located on a plot of land, donated by the Jordanian government, on a

hill overlooking the University Road not far from the University of Jordan Hospital.

ACOR Director Dr. David McCreey noted that the fund-raising drive aims to raise a total of JD 1.2 million, to build, furnish and equip the new building, and also to establish an endowment that would permanently fund several new annual fellowships that ACOR plans to set up in Jordan. These include an annual fellowship in Islamic archaeology and history and another in salvage archaeology.

Advanced research centre

The building itself will be one of the most advanced archaeological research institutes in the Middle East, complete with living quarters for resident fellows and visiting scholars, a library, meeting rooms, workshops, darkroom, computer system, storage facilities and a small museum.

The building itself needs a total of JD 520,000 to be complete by the target date of May 1986, of which JD 350,000 has been raised to date in cash grants. Of this, JD 280,000 has come from the United States and JD 70,000 from Jordan. There have also been substantial in-kind contributions from Jordanian institutions, such as the donation of the land by the

government and a major gift of cement from the Jordan Cement Factories Company.

Prince Ra'ad thanked His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for his efforts as patron of the committee that has undertaken the international fund-raising drive, and the many other parties in Jordan, the United States and elsewhere who have done so much to help the ACOR building project reach its current state.

The building is being built by the Jordanian Contractors Union Building and Contracting Company, with design and supervision by the Jordanian consultants Habib Associates — both of whom have also contributed to the fund-raising effort.

More funds needed

In the coming six months, the fund-raising drive must raise another JD 170,000 to keep up the pace of work on the site and to finish the building as scheduled in May 1986.

Persons interested in more information about ACOR and its work in Jordanian archaeology, or who wish to become involved in or contribute to the fund-raising drive, should contact ACOR Director Dr. David McCreey at 814917.

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Penniless municipalities cannot develop communities

By Tareq Masarweh

IN THEIR present shape, municipalities in Jordan could not serve as adequate tools for the government to develop local communities. A recent statistical survey reveals that Amman municipality spends an average JD 20 in public service for each citizen living in the capital, and this no doubt applies to other municipalities to a great extent. This limited sum is inadequate, as it is supposed to cover all types of services and not only cleaning and guarding homes according to the old concept.

Our municipalities are living in the last quarter of the 20th century and should live up to the modern standards in terms of services for the public. People wonder about the real benefit of the intersections in Amman and their cost, which exceeded JD 20 million, and ask whether this sum couldn't have been made to serve better causes, say for instance, developing Jordanian towns and villages and improving their public utilities.

Whenever I drive through the intersections at Shmeisani and pass by the University of Jordan's overpass, I wonder about the real benefits of the bridges erected there, especially as traffic lights have been set up at prominent points along the way and around Amman Municipality must have spent a fortune on these interchanges and bridges at a time when other towns find it hard to carry out public projects for lack of funds.

In my view, there should be a new "municipal law" that would ensure for every municipality sufficient control over tax collecting, and do away with the present regulations that empower the Finance Ministry to collect "buildings tax" everywhere. Every municipality should have its own civil engineer as a permanent arrangement provided by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment with a code of law and a handbook of regulations and specifications for Jordanian towns and villages. It is a pity to see unemployed engineers in Jordan and bankrupt municipalities which spend money on opening highways within their boundaries, destroying hundreds of live trees in the process.

We should stop building costly schools in Amman and stop demanding from poor villages to pay half the cost of their schools. Education tax collected in all towns should be used to finance schooling in rural regions of Jordan, and city dwellers ought to pay for their children's education beyond the compulsory stage, which ends at the third preparatory class. Money collected in the process should finance the building of and developing schools. Also to improve the work of municipalities, all prospective mayors should take a test in "municipalities law." According to Amman mayor Abdul Ra'uf

Al Rawabdeh, the present municipalities law grants a mayor far more powers and rights than those of cabinet members. He says, for instance, a mayor has the right to impose additional taxes relying in most cases on a municipality clerk for interpreting the various articles of the law. There is no harm in appointing a municipality director-general who should acquire to a certain degree, many of the qualifications of a general manager of a business company.

Also to help develop municipalities, I suggest that the government take direct responsibility in financing municipal projects of major priority like building public libraries and parks, opening main streets and schools, and that the local inhabitants should be left with the task of maintaining and developing these utilities later on.

In my view, present loans granted to municipalities are ineffective and do not serve the purpose. Developing our villages, no matter how big the amounts of money we spend on them, costs far less than handling the consequences of population migration from rural to urban regions of Jordan.

The disproportionate and unnatural growth of "Third World's" capitals and major cities, remains one of the main factors of social, economic and political instability.

End mark of the saga

AS IS well known, there is a deadlock in the Middle East that has to be broken. If peace efforts will not do the job now, well, the alternative will no doubt be war and destruction.

Extremism and fanaticism are closing in on the peace-makers — those who believe that a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem is still possible. But time is short, and the opportunity is lapsing.

It is unfair to expect from the Arabs, particularly those in the centre, to do all the running. The U.S. is foolish to think that it can afford to wait until Arab and Israeli differences have narrowed, much as Israel is wrong to expect that its arrogance and rejectionism can in the end pay dividends. Europe and the Soviet Union remain indebted to this area with some good explanations of their real positions.

Whoever followed the speeches presented at the opening ceremony of the Syrian Baath Party Conference on Saturday must surely be aware of the dilemma. "Even the idea of the international conference on the Middle East must not be accepted," shouted Walid Junblatt from the rostrum, calling on the Arabs to acquire nuclear weapons in order to stand up to Israel. President Assad was not less vehement in denouncing Jordan, Egypt and the PLO for their inclinations to seek peaceful efforts for an Arab-Israeli settlement. Nabih Berri was adamant: "Only the gun can save Arab interests. Look at South Lebanon." So was Khaled Al Fahoum, the former PNC speaker, George Hawi, leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, and Isam Mahayreh of the Syrian Nationalist Social Party, among many others.

The moderate forces of the Arab World do not, nor could they, ignore the radicals — not when faced with Israeli recalcitrance and American connivance anyway. The centrist course is the best you could take, granted. But to keep a balance in a sea of extremism and turbulence is by far the most difficult option in our situation. And in the end, for what purpose, may we ask.

Surely the Arab moderates are not unaware of their position, and it is a noble thing that which they are doing. But our endeavours for peace should also be conditional: Either Israel makes peace in accordance with international law and regulations or else it must face the consequences.

This should not be made clear in fear, or out of respect, for the radicals. Nor should it be said in order to outbid the extremists. To the opposite, a clear definition of our policy may soon be the only way to meet our target.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Meeting instigates optimism

THE MEETING in Aqaba between King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak opens new chances for optimism and new hopes and expectations for the Arab masses. Faced with the current pitiable situation prevailing in the Arab World, the masses look to the meeting between the two leaders as a new hope and a beacon that casts light on our dark path.

The two leaders' meeting reflects their keenness on maintaining contacts to serve Arab national interests and emphasises the need for all Arab countries to carry out joint action and overcome their state of desperation. There can be no way out of the present dilemma in inter-Arab relations except by solidarity and cooperation among the Arab countries, and there can be no solution to the many problems which the Arabs face except through cooperation and coordination.

The meeting of the two leaders is a welcome step towards a joint Arab action that can kill all conspiracies and end threats to the nation.

Al Dustour: Geneva meeting influences Mideast situation

THE EXPECTED meeting in Geneva Sunday between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States assumes a special importance not only because the two represent the superpowers that have special responsibility towards the world but also as the meeting constitutes a step towards ending the cold war. The past few years witnessed strained relations between the two giants which affected Europe and the whole world, and the new meeting is looked on as an attempt to try to thaw the ice and start a new chapter in bilateral relations.

Harmony between the superpowers is bound to have its positive impact on other parts of the world especially the troubled Middle East region. If the two superpowers agree on resolving their major differences, the peoples of the Middle East region can feel optimistic about brighter chances for solving their chronic problem and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. After all, the two superpowers have a real responsibility for establishing stability, security and peace around the world.

Sawt Al Shuab: On Arab solidarity path

KING HUSSEIN'S meeting with President Mubarak following the King's visit to Saudi Arabia and talks with King Fahd is part of Jordan's moves on the Arab scene to mobilise efforts and enhance cooperation between Arab leaderships.

In view of the present prevailing passive situation in the Arab World, the Jordanian moves are regarded as a hopeful sign for the Arab masses who look towards peace and an end to the Middle East problem.

Inter-Arab differences are the biggest obstacles in the way to solidarity, and the King and President Mubarak have pledged to do all they can to remove these obstacles and end the disputes. King Hussein has been able through his wise policies to build bridges of understanding and confidence with Arab leaders, and therefore, he is in a position to help remove all differences and bring the leaders closer together. The King's moves should be looked on as a first step towards building a real base for joint Arab action.



A U.S. cartoonist's view of President Reagan's obsession with "Star Wars" — (Olphant, Universal Press Syndicate)

Arms race can have no clear leader

By Tim Ahern
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The usual method of measuring a nation's military might is by asking whether it would win a war against a potential enemy.

But in the nuclear age, that measure no longer works, so there is no absolute answer to the question: "Who's ahead, the United States or the Soviet Union?"

The two superpowers entered two days of preliminary arms control talks Monday and Tuesday in Geneva, Switzerland, armed with vast stockpiles of nuclear warheads and dozens of methods of firing those weapons at each other.

Trying to figure out which side is ahead is difficult because the normal measures of military comparison, such as numbers and effectiveness of weapons, do not easily apply to nuclear weapons.

William Arkin, a nuclear weapons expert who is co-author of a book on the U.S. arsenal along with several studies, said, "The Soviets may be ahead in actual warheads, but (the United States has) more than enough. Deterrence is as much a state of mind as anything else."

Deterrence principle

Both nations base their nuclear policy on the concept of deterrence, believing that each has such great destructive power that an attacker cannot escape retaliatory destruction.

The two superpowers have a nuclear triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, manned bombers and submarine-launched missiles.

Each leg of the triad has to be attacked in different ways, making

it difficult for one side to plan a strike which would leave the other side unable to retaliate.

But each nation has different strengths in its triad. While almost three-quarters of the Soviet Union's long-range nuclear weapons sit atop ICBMs, the United States has only 25 per cent of its strategic warheads on ICBMs. Another 25 per cent are aboard bombers and half are on subs.

No superiority

While much of the material about nuclear weapons is classified, a compilation of data from the Pentagon shows the United States to have about the same number of ICBM warheads — 2,100 — now as it possessed in 1980 while the number of Soviet ICBM nuclear warheads has increased from about 5,200 to around 5,600.

The United States, with its B-52 and FB-111 planes, has more bombers, about 340 to 290, but the Soviets have closed the gap somewhat in the past four years.

At sea, the United States still maintains a large lead, with about 5,700 sub-launched warheads to an estimated 2,000 for the Soviets.

These figures include only warheads on strategic, or long-range, weapons. If the total of all warheads is counted, the United States has a stockpile of 25,000 to 26,000 atomic warheads, according to various estimates. The total Soviet stockpile falls somewhere between 18,000 and 41,000, according to a recent study co-authored by Mr. Arkin, the arms expert.

The Soviets have never published data on their stockpile and the wide disparity in the numbers of warheads involves different assumptions about Soviet delivery

systems. The higher number is arrived at by assuming nuclear weapons are fired from some systems which can be used for either nuclear or non-nuclear weapons and by assuming that some delivery systems are reloaded and fired again.

Vast amounts of money

Whatever the total, both nations are spending vast amounts of money on new weapons for all three legs of the triad.

The United States is now testing a new ICBM, the MX, and plans to add 100 of the 10-warhead weapons to the arsenal of 1,000 Minuteman weapons. The older Titan ICBMs are being phased out.

At sea, the first U.S. Trident subs have been deployed along with their 24 Trident I missiles, each of which has eight warheads. Within the next two years, those missiles will be replaced by the Trident II missiles, which have a longer range and better accuracy than the current weapons. The Navy eventually plans to build at least 20 Trident-class subs.

The Soviets are offsetting the U.S. boats with Typhoon-class subs, each of which can fire up to 20 missiles. Those boats will be in addition to the three other classes of missile-firing subs the Soviets now deploy.

On land, the Reagan administration is pushing hard for 100 MX weapons, despite strong objections that it makes no sense to put the weapons into existing Minuteman silos which might be vulnerable to a first strike.

Congress has already approved 21 MX weapons, but the number of U.S. land-based ICBM warheads will remain about what it was because the air force is retiring the aging Titan II missile. In

addition, the air force is developing a new ICBM commonly known as "Midgetman."

The Soviets have 1,400 ICBMs, according to the Pentagon, compared with 1,024 for the United States. The Soviets have continued to improve their ICBM force and are adding two more types of missiles to the eight types already deployed, the Pentagon says.

Air race too

In the air, the Soviets are developing a new, long-range bomber code-named "Black Jack" in the West, which will be combined with the shorter-range "Backfire."

But the United States is developing two new types of bombers to replace the aging B-52s and the FB-111s which are the heart of the U.S. bomber force.

Mr. Reagan's main strategic nuclear weapons decision was to resurrect the B-1 bomber. The first of the swing-wing planes were produced in September.

At the same time, the Pentagon is pushing ahead with its "stealth" technology, involving special paints and construction to make it extremely difficult for planes to be detected by enemy radar. The secret programme is reportedly aimed at developing both bombers and fighters.

Both sides are also in the midst of deploying thousands of low-flying, slow-moving cruise missiles. The small weapons are difficult to detect and can be fired from planes, surface ships, subs or land bases.

In addition, the Reagan administration has poured more than \$20 billion into improving the nuclear command-and-control structure to make sure that the retaliatory strike capability cannot be knocked out.

Reagan enters 2nd term without valued California cadre

By Patricia Wilson
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — Three top-level departures from President Reagan's administration last week leave him without his trusted inner circle of California associates and spotlight ideological divisions among his senior advisers.

With the resignations of White House Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Deaver and Interior Secretary William Clark, and the nomination of Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese as attorney general, Mr. Reagan will be without his valued cadre for the first time since coming to Washington.

Mr. Deaver, considered the aide with the closest personal ties to Mr. Reagan and his wife Nancy, essentially managed the job of "packaging" the president, devising ways to present the man and his policies, particularly on television and in speeches.

"Mike has rendered 18 years of loyal and outstanding service... much of the success we've enjoyed in the first term is attributable to him," Mr. Reagan said last week in announcing Mr. Deaver's resignation.

The White House may not replace Mr. Deaver, who began working for Mr. Reagan when he was governor of California and handled his speeches before he was elected president in 1980.

"We have no plans to fill his position. He is irreplaceable," a White House spokesman said, explaining that the position had been created largely to allow Mr. Deaver to come to Washington in a senior advisory capacity. Similarly, the job of presidential counsellor held by Mr. Meese is likely to become defunct.

Conservatives, who form Mr. Reagan's electoral power base, are particularly concerned about the departure of Mr. Clark and Mr. Meese whose views are known to carry strong weight with the president.

Some conservatives, fearing a subtle ideological change in a second Reagan term, are pressing for a senior position for Jeane Kirkpatrick, who is leaving as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

White House officials have declined to say if she will be offered a major post and decisions on her future have been shelved until after Mr. Reagan's inauguration on Jan. 20.

If Mr. Deaver is not replaced, most of his duties will revert to White House Chief of Staff James Baker who has been criticised by conservatives for compromising with Congress on domestic policy during Mr. Reagan's first four



Michael K. Deaver

years. Conservatives see changes in the president's top staff leaving pragmatists in charge of the domestic agenda and so-called moderates like Secretary of State George Shultz and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane managing foreign policy.

Some political analysts say the departure of Mr. Meese, Mr. Deaver and Mr. Clark could indicate that Mr. Reagan intends to devote most of his second term to foreign policy and the pursuit of a historical tag as "a peace president."

Resignations are not uncommon at the start of a president's second term and several senior officials had said they intended to go for personal reasons if Mr. Reagan were reelected.

Mr. Deaver had complained of being unable to live in Washington on his \$72,000-dollar salary and is reported to be taking a public relations job at more than \$200,000 a year.

Mr. Reagan nominated Mr. Meese, a former prosecutor, to succeed William French Smith as attorney general. Mr. Smith, another of the President's long-time associates from California, has also said he will depart as soon as it is feasible.

Mr. Clark's resignation was somewhat unexpected. A conservative hard-liner, he was a key figure in Mr. Reagan's first term, previously serving as national security adviser and as number two at the State Department under Alexander Haig.

He said he believed his job at the Interior Department was "substantially complete" and that he wanted to return to his barley and cattle ranch in California.

The departure of Mr. Deaver, Mr. Meese and Mr. Clark leaves Mr. Baker in a good position to influence Mr. Reagan in the early months of his second administration, several officials said.

But Mr. Baker, a Texan and not part of the so-called "California Mafia" who came to Washington with Mr. Reagan, has also talked about leaving the White House.

LETTERS

Reckless drivers kill pupils

To the Editor:

I would like to express my extreme concern regarding buses which transport children to and from various schools, in the hope that the concerned authorities will take some action to avert possibly tragic losses.

With dismay, I have noticed on several occasions that mini-bus and bus drivers seem to have no sense of responsibility when they are ferrying, often large numbers, children to schools, kindergartens or homes.

With no apparent regard for the young lives placed in their charge, some of these bus drivers take unnecessary risks in overtaking, pulling out of junctions or discharging their passengers. In two separate instances I myself have witnessed reckless driving by school bus drivers which miraculously did not result in tragedy.

As a mother of two young children, I can fully appreciate how other parents might feel if their child was the victim of a senseless accident.

I sincerely hope that this letter prompts parents, schools and kindergartens to investigate the responsibilities of the drivers who are entrusted with the lives of so many children.

Mrs. Jo Kehily,
 Amman.

Cheysson departure is no compliment to Arabs

By Robert Swann

DECEMBER HAS not been a good month for those who want France to maintain a foreign policy sympathetic to the Arab World — in particular on the Palestinian question. The replacement as foreign minister of Claude Cheysson by Roland Dumas should not, of course, be seen simply as occurring within an "Arab" dimension of French Foreign policy.

To some extent, Mr. Cheysson is the scapegoat for the embarrassing Libyan refusal to carry out the reciprocal withdrawal from Chad promised in the recent Franco-Libyan agreement (ironically, Roland Dumas was also involved in the negotiations). This has provided the French opposition with a great opportunity to huff and puff about the affront to French prestige, though if French

troops had stayed on in Chad, the opposition would probably have complained just as strongly about the expense involved.

What has certainly upset President Mitterrand is that Mr. Cheysson did not fit into the pattern whereby foreign policy is a presidential preserve with the foreign minister simply an executive of Elysee policy. Mr. Cheysson's strong and outspoken personality and long diplomatic experience were an asset to Mr. Mitterrand at the beginning of his mandate but may have appeared a liability in the run-up to mid-term elections to the national assembly. One lobby Mr. Cheysson has certainly made no particular effort to placate is the Zionist lobby. He has followed the Palestinian question closely for over 30 years and also knows that France's national interests are linked to a good relationship with the Arab World.

The opposition are falling over themselves to pursue the Jewish vote. Former President Giscard d'Estaing was the first to visit Israel, with his ex-prime minister and current rival within UDF, Raymond Barre, in hot pursuit. Then it was the turn of the RPR's leader,

and potential presidential candidate Jacques Chirac who was once labelled pro-Israeli but now claims to have known nothing about French contracts to build the Tamuz nuclear reactor when he was prime minister. Outbidding them all was Jacques Chaban Delmas whom Mr. Mitterrand may well appoint as prime minister if the assembly elections give a majority to the right. He hinted very broadly that as prime minister he had deliberately turned a blind eye when the Israelis clandestinely smuggled patrol boats out of Cherbourg in defiance of a French embargo in 1969. The small consolation is that many Jews are finding this circus slightly unconvincing. Nevertheless, Arabs must expect to have a rather low priority in French government thinking in 1985 — Middle East International, London.

'Peace and youth go forward together'

By The Reverend Musa Adeli

FOR THE past 18 years, Jan. 1 has been observed by the Christian community upon the instigation of the Pope as the day of peace when prayers are offered all over the world for this ideal. Coupled therefore with the United Nations dedication of 1985 as a Year for Youth, the theme developed and reflected upon by Pope John Paul for this year's day of peace "Peace and youth go forward together" is particularly significant. In the occupied territories of Palestine the opposite has sadly been the case in recent years in that peace and youth have been dying together. When peace dies an inestimable number of young people die with it. The sad but true fact is to be seen in the graveyards of war victims that are scattered all over the area and are the landmarks which keep alive the memory of the many young people who have died. Many more also killed in battle are not even honoured

by such a memory. They are "missing". The war has wiped them off the face of the earth as a gale would strip a tree of its blossoms. The worst absurdity of war is that it is invariably fought by young people most of whom are fighting for an ideal of peace. A consensus on the desire for peace is shared by most young people world-wide, and this represents a huge potential force which will have to bear fruit if a lasting peace is to be achieved. However, this consensus among the young must be defended and developed. It must be defended against ideologies' provocations and fanaticism which drive young people towards violence and war. The best defence against the enemies of peace is to develop a critical intelligence, moral conscience and a religious vision of life and of historical and social culture. They must grow up not only with an insatiable desire for peace but with a firm conviction that peace is a moral, social and historical reality — which can and must be achieved. This religious, moral and cultural growth can only be brought about by education, and it is here that the educational mission of the family, the church and the school has a role to play. Of these three, the family has primarily the most decisive role to play in shaping the inner attitude of a child or youth. In a good family they will learn naturally the great values which inspire dignity and peace loving, human co-existence, the ability to share respect for one's elders, the ability to renounce, to forgive, respect for the sick or the elderly and all the other attributes of living together in a close loving and peaceful community. However, it is not sufficient to foster these ideals individually when they can be manipulated by unscrupulous people for questionable reasons. The huge potential for peace embedded in the heart of

mature humane and God-fearing youth must in some way succeed in gaining the momentum it deserves. As young people grow up, they must realise that public life and its prerogatives are not something to be entrusted to others, naively and blindly. Having gained maturity, fostering peace will yield results by the active participation of youth in public life. Age permits and wherever this is allowed in a free democratic society. If a young person confines himself to his own personal interests, he will not be contributing significantly to the cause of peace. According to Christian thought each person is required to contribute to the common good in accordance with his means and possibilities. Freedom, justice and peace are the three most important components of the common good. Peace, therefore, progresses by an awareness of one's own responsibilities. Meanwhile, there are still many barriers which prevent young people from expressing themselves or from communicating with even close neighbours. In our own area, this problem has been acute since 1947, and we now have more than five million Palestinian people, many of them young people, who are not allowed to live freely in their own homeland. Responsible people everywhere including Pope John Paul have deplored this situation on numerous occasions calling upon the world community in the name of humanity to insist upon a solution to this problem in accordance with United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338. This poignant human problem cannot and indeed must not be forgotten, and if violent solutions, having not only failed in the past but in failing have robbed successive generations of the flower of their youth, are to be forsaken then it is to this very youth that we must direct our hopes. Our world day of peace is therefore a providential event,

Randa Habib's Corner 'Unprecedentedly humanitarian'

IT SEEMS we should take lessons in "humanitarianism." The famine which struck Africa provoked few tears here and there in the world, help from rich and some less rich countries and a little word of kindness in conversations "Those poor Africans, who are dying of starvation..." The humanitarian lesson we must take, or shall I say the intelligence to deviate a supposedly humanitarian act into something to your own advantage, is something we should definitely learn from Israel. While others are satisfied with shedding tears, Israel raised few millions of dollars "always in the name of humanitarianism", and convinced an Arab country — a member of the Arab League — as well as European states to participate in the game. The emigration of Falasha Jews started in silence then developed into a process surrounded with shouts of indignation and rage. Despite all that, certain countries, adopting an ostrich policy, keep on talking of liberating a land from where Palestinians are evicted and Ethiopian Jews are installed. But, there are no doubts the Israeli motives were "only humanitarian." A spokesman for the Jewish Agency announced Sunday that the exodus of the Falashas to Israel has been "brutally interrupted" and that the interruption of this "humanitarian" enterprise was imposed by the publicity this affair provoked. So, here we go again, Israel tries to depict us as wolves before the world, while she puts on the soft skin of the lamb. And soon, they will throw upon us the responsibility of the death of starving Ethiopians merely because we made the mistake of realising the Israeli plot.

American Fundamentalism in theory and practice

Part II

Fundamentalists invariably promote pro-Israel fanaticism

By Alan Dehmer

Jewish envy and the Israeli state
IN A WORLD filled with disaster, chaos and the threat of nuclear conflagration, televangelists offer their listeners a clear-cut picture of right and wrong, a picture based on and explained entirely in terms of a literal interpretation of the Judeo-Christian Bible. Literalism, as this theory of exegesis is known, stems from the belief that every word of Scripture is the actual Word of God as God expressed it. As such, the belief goes, the Bible must be interpreted in a strictly literal fashion to be properly understood and incorporated into one's life. In addition to posing solutions to otherwise unresolved or precariously balanced moral dilemmas, this theology caters to a desire for predictability and, for stability within a world outwardly filled with confusion. Accidentally or not, this interpretation of the Bible corresponds to what has come to be called New Right politics in America. As such, this belief system also offers adherents absolute compatibility between their religious beliefs and political values. Nowhere are the needs for security and predictability or the ramifications of religio-political compatibility more bluntly expressed and aggressively insisted upon for fundamentalists than in their interpretation of the current situation in the Middle East. This interpretation derives primarily from a series of isolated passages in the Christian Old Testament. In the book of Amos 9:14, the prophet writes: I will bring about the restoration of my people Israel... I will plant them upon their own ground; never again shall they be plucked from the land I have given them. Fundamentalists frequently cite this passage to prove that the establishment of the state of Israel fulfils biblical prophecy. The prophet Amos, a herdsman



Fundamentalists at Washington for Jesus Day seek "old-time" revival.

by trade, lived in the 8th century BCE. He wrote of the moral corruption he saw both in his native Israel and in the world that surrounded him. All people, he wrote, had to obey God's Word or prepare to receive God's wrath. Although Amos' call for obedience to the Lord extended beyond his immediate surroundings, Amos reserved his harshest criticism for the people of Israel. They would be taken captive by an aggressor, he prophesied, if they did not conform to God's law. But he also added hope to this prophecy, promising that if, after the time of exile, the people turned their hearts to the Lord, they would be restored to their homeland. The passage from Amos 9:14 (above) refers to this possibility of restoration. It is generally accepted by biblical scholars to refer to the return of the Hebrews to Israel after 48 years of captivity in Babylon (587-539 BCE). In the past 2500 years the falling away and restoration of the

...This belief is based on an even earlier biblical passage from the 10th century BCE Book of Genesis — "I will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you" (Gn. 12:13). From this passage — a narrative in which God speaks to Abraham of the promises of the land, considered to be the foundation of the Covenant relationship between God and humanity — fundamentalists have developed their belief in Israel's sacredness in the world today. They claim that Israel reigns supreme in God's eyes and, further, that the fate of other nations lies in their attitude towards it. Held with dogmatic rigidity, this belief is the basis for their often-touted claim that God does not look favourably upon the Arab nations or, by extension, those who support the "Arab cause." It also serves to justify unlimited and unquestioned military support by the U.S. to Israel. Jerry Falwell has stated:

God deals with nations in relation to how nations deal with Israel. I believe God blesses America and has blessed America because we have blessed Abraham and have blessed the Jews. I think if America, for example, turned against Israel, our value to God would cease to be. We are important to God only if we are meeting God's priorities on this earth.

The invasion brought high hopes to televangelist preaching as they assumed they were witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy and the call to Armageddon.

Finally, fundamentalists combine these beliefs in the origin and blessed nature of the state of Israel with the notion of an impending holy war that will involve Israel and the "cohorts of Satan." The detailed scenario, indicting the

Soviet Union and the Arab nation, is taken from a series of Christian Old Testament works, primarily the Books of Daniel (7-12), and Ezekiel (38:1-39:29). Later, in Section B, a synopsis of the 6th century BCE work of the prophet Ezekiel will be explained in terms of contemporary fundamentalist interpretations as they relate to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. (The invasion brought high hopes to televangelist preaching as they assumed they were witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy and the call to Armageddon.)

—Paul Crouch

From a Christian perspective what remains peculiar about the preceding interpretations and predictions for the future is that they draw so heavily on Old Testament prophecy. Christianity has traditionally accepted the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies and promises. Further, the fulfillment of these prophecies is believed to be the promise of the New Covenant between God and humanity as prophesied in the Book of Jeremiah 31:31-34. Fundamentalists, however, while accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, reject the suggestion of an already established New Covenant. Rather, they still await the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. Because so much emphasis is placed, consequently, on the "future time" of the coming of the Messiah, fundamentalism tends to resemble and identify itself with pre-Christian messianic Judaism. A similar phenomenon was also apparent within the Puritan faith. There was an effort among the Puritans to pray in Hebrew, and to utilise the Mosaic law in their daily lives, and there were even conversions to Judaism among the Puritans. In "Essays and Portraits in Anglo-Jewish History," Cecil Roth comments on this behaviour. Their own history was thus

the continuation, their own lives the reflection, their own achievements the fulfillment, of the experience of a Palestine of so many centuries before; for they were, in very deed, the Jews.

Today's fundamentalists see themselves set apart from the rest of the world, showing little regard for the fate of others, treating adversaries such as the Arabs as mere pawns to be moved about ruthlessly, if necessary, in a divine chess game. Like pre-Christian messianic Jews they believe it is their duty to usher in the Kingdom of God. Pat Robertson, for example, wrote to the members of his 700 Club that, like John the Baptist, he had been chosen by God to announce to the world the coming of the Saviour through the medium of his Christian Broadcasting Network. In fact, identification with the Jews has extended to the point that Paul Crouch of the Trinity Broadcast Network proclaimed his willingness to convert to Judaism, encouraging his listeners to do the same. "Our foundation is Jewish," he said, introducing the two Israeli government officials visiting his "Praise the Lord Show" Dec. 3, 1982. "We should be more positive and firm in our loyalty to Israel." He noted that the word "gentile" means "pagan" and so

...there are only Jews and pagans. So if you want to call yourself a pagan, go ahead! ... With the heritage of the Judeo-Christian faith, it is imperative that we do everything possible to bring about a coming together and realise the necessity of learning Hebrew and learning the culture and tradition of the Israeli people. Instead of being concerned by the world problems, we must make a firm stand for Israel.

Turning to his Israeli guests, Crouch then asked: "How does one become a Jew because I certainly don't want to be a pagan." His guests beamed with delight.

To be continued Tuesday

Furore follows bombing of U.S. abortion clinics

By Michael Battye

WASHINGTON — Fundamentalist Christian preachers in the United States have come under fierce criticism following a spate of bombings on abortion clinics, suspected to be the work of Christian extremists opposed to abortion. Ten minutes after 19:55 began, a bomb ripped through an abortion clinic in Washington, D.C., the 25th such attack in a year. Like the others, it caused serious damage but no injuries. This attack has provoked angry criticism on government and its law enforcement agencies for their apparent inability to stop the attacks. Washington Mayor Marion Barry pointed the finger at The Reverend Jerry Falwell and other prominent, fundamentalist preachers, implying they had not done all they could to discourage such violence by extremists who might be among the millions in their flocks. "The Jerry Falwells of the world ought to condemn this type of terrorist activity," Mr. Barry said. Mr. Falwell, television evangelist, founder of the right-wing "Moral Majority" and symbol of the rising political influence of U.S. Christian conservatives, replied that he had condemned such violence for years. The latest bombing also prompted a strong denunciation from President Reagan, who opposes abortion and wants it restricted by legal means. He pledged to do all he could to bring the bombers to justice. The Roman Catholic Church, which condemns abortion as a mortal sin, weighed in with a statement abhorring the violence. The Reverend James Hickey, the archbishop of Washington, said: "The acts are harmful because they shift public attention and concern from the violence against the unborn to the violence against the clinics." But managers of abortion clinics and supporters of abortion

say they still live in fear. "No one is feeling reassured," said Rosam Wismar, executive director of Washington area clinics of the Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-profit group that supports a woman's right to have an abortion. She said about 20 clinics and "pro-choice" groups, as supporters of abortion are known, meet regularly to discuss the attacks. Last week they met agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), which investigates bombings in the United States. Ms. Wismar said little came of the meeting and the participants were left frustrated. But she declined to join widespread criticism of the fact that the BATF rather than the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was pursuing the bombers. "We don't really care who does the investigating as long as people are arrested and the bombings stop," she said. The BATF has had some success since the fundamentalist extremists turned to violence in the ideological war between "pro-choice" advocates and "pro-life" anti-abortionists in 1982. There have been convictions in nine of the 30 bombings that have occurred since then, including all six before the attacks intensified last year. BATF spokeswoman Dot Koester said the extreme right-wing "Army of God", which claimed responsibility for some bombings, comprised only three men who were jailed for bombings in 1982. There was no evidence it was a national organisation with members still on the loose, she added. She said four people, two 21-year-old men and two 18-year-old women, had been arrested in connection with three bombings of abortion clinics in Pensacola, Florida, last Christmas Day. But Ms. Koester said there had been little progress in finding the perpetrators of six bombings in the Washington area over the last six months.

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McEnroe pockets Challenge of Champions title, \$200,000

LAS VEGAS (R) — John McEnroe overcame the surprising first set net-charging tactics of Guillermo Vilas and completed a 7-5, 6-0 victory in the final of the \$1.3 million Challenge of Champions Tennis Tournament Saturday.

McEnroe earned \$200,000 for his first victory of the year, which he said "eased the disappointment of losing the Davis Cup final."

Argentine Vilas, playing with renewed confidence after losing weight and changing rackets, admitted he ran out of energy in the second set but was pleased with his performance.

McEnroe, the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, said he was shaken up by Vilas' tactics in the first set. Instead of coming out with his usual baseline game, Vilas came to the net and forced McEnroe to stay back — something he rarely does.

"He surprised me," said McEnroe. "He was getting the best of me on his return of serve and was very aggressive. He got me to the point where I stayed back after my first serve, and for me that's almost unheard of."

"But it looked like he got tired in the second set and sort of fizzled out."

Vilas, who had one of his worst seasons in 1984, said he tired in the second set because he had less than 12 hours between Friday night's victory over Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and the final of the eight-man event.

"I played too late last night and didn't get enough time to practise today," he said. "Usually I practise an hour and a half before a match like this, and I wasn't able to today."

Both players had difficulty holding service in the first set, breaking one another three times.

McEnroe jumped to a 2-0 lead but Vilas, showing improved movement and speed, fought back to 3-3. McEnroe went ahead, 5-3, but Vilas broke him once again and then held for 5-3.

McEnroe broke Vilas for a third time and then held his service in the 12th game for the 7-5 win.

McEnroe waltzed through the second set, sending passing shots by the tiring Vilas, who managed just five points.

"I was going for winners too soon," McEnroe said of the first set. "I was in too much of a hurry. Then when I found out I couldn't win it quick, I lost concentration."

McEnroe now leads their personal battle, dating back eight years, by eight wins to seven.

Yannick Noah of France defeated Jimmy Connors of the United States 7-6, 7-6 to snatch third place.

The match was highlighted by the tiebreaker in the first set, which Noah won 18-16. He had an easier time in the second set winning the tiebreaker 7-4.

Noah's powerful serve was the key in the tiebreakers, providing the difference in a contest between Connors' ferocity at the baseline and the Frenchman's range and speed.

Noah received \$50,000 for his victory while Connors collected \$25,000 for fourth place.

Maradona makes it happy New Year for Napoli

ROME (R) — Argentine Duo Diego Maradona and Daniel Berti helped Napoli start the New Year on a high note with two goals each in Sunday's home game against Udinese.

But Udinese, despite the absence through injury of Brazilian Zico, made Napoli work hard for their victory scoring three goals of their own.

Maradona's goals, in front of 71,000 spectators, both came from penalties after 22 and 77 minutes, while Udinese's second was scored from the spot by Brazilian Edinho, after Napoli midfielder Salvatore Bagni brought down fullback Attilio Tesser.

The game was played in steady rain, but in Rome it was heavy snow, the first to settle in the capital since early 1971, which forced the postponement of the Lazio-Milan game.

Lazio officials said they hoped to stage the game Monday, weather permitting.

Atlanta, promoted to the first division this season, held league leaders Verona to a 1-1 draw thanks to a second-half goal by centre-forward Marco Pacione from a cross by Sweden's Glenn Peter Stromberg.

But Verona maintained their two-point lead at the top as their nearest rivals, Torino, drew 2-2 at home with Fiorentina.

Cold weather made conditions difficult at other grounds, particularly Milan's San Siro stadium where Inter Milan held Roma to a goalless draw on an icy pitch.

French midfielder Michel Platini retained his position as leading goalscorer by claiming the first league goal of 1985 five minutes into his Juventus side's away draw with Sampdoria.

Former Liverpool captain Graeme Souness replied in the 74th minute for the Genoa-based side with a fierce shot from outside the area to make the final score 1-1.

West German Hansi Muller scored his first goal of the season for Como with a penalty in their 2-1 win over Avellino. Como's second came from Sweden Dan Corneliusson, who had seen an earlier goal disallowed after a foul on goalkeeper Mario Paradisi.

Britain's Ashworth wins Orange Bowl marathon

MIAMI, Florida (AP) — Britain's Jimmy Ashworth, competing for only the sixth time in a 26.2-mile event, won the Orange Bowl Marathon on Saturday, finishing well ahead of Barry Brown in 2 hours, 18 minutes and 49 seconds.

Women's favourite Jan Yerkas was the first female across the finish line, leading all the way and recording a time of 2:41:34. Maurer Hurst of Britain took second with a time of 2:41:30.

The pre-race men's favourites, defending champion Tommy Persson of Sweden and American Olympian Paul Cummings, finished fifth and seventh, respectively. Persson was timed in 2:25:26, while Cummings finished in 2:28:26.

Ashworth's winning time was nearly 4½ minutes slower than the 2:14:06 he turned in last year.

Brown led the race until the 20.5-mile mark when Ashworth glided past him. Ashworth said he thought he was in the lead halfway through the race until a spectator told him Brown was about two minutes ahead of him.

Egyptians scoop soccer honours

By David Thomas

NAIROBI (R) — Cameroun were the kings of African football in 1984 but Egypt ran away with both the top club soccer trophies. Zamalek captured the Champions' Cup and National Cup Winners' trophy while Cameroun won the Nations' Cup in Ivory Coast last March.

They also took one of Africa's three qualifying places in the Los Angeles Olympic soccer finals and beat Congo in the final of a West African regional tournament.

North and West Africa, traditional strongholds of the sport, provided semi-finalists for all the major competitions.

But there were several shocks. Ghana failed miserably in their bid to retain the Nations' Cup. Champions' Cup holders Ashante Kotoko crashed out in the first round to unknown Angolans Primeiro de Maio and Togo did not fulfil the promise shown in 1983.

Violence marred the Champions' Cup and Kenya's Gor Mahia and Sanga Balende of Zaire were disqualified after attacks on referees. FC 105 from Gabon were kicked out after using an ineligible player.

Libya's Al Ahly provided the Cup Winners' Cup drama. They surprisingly reached the final and then refused to play National because of political differences between Libya and Egypt. They were replaced in the final by Canon de Yaounde of Cameroun, the team they had beaten in the semi-finals. Cameroun deservedly won the

Nations' Cup for the first time, coming from behind to beat Nigeria 3-1 in the final.

Their semifinal showdown with Algeria was deadlocked at 0-0 after extra time and the Indomitable Lions squeezed through 5-4 on penalties.

Cameroun outclassed Ethiopia to reach the Los Angeles finals but surprisingly failed to make the last eight after losing 3-1 to Canada.

Egypt had three players sent off in a 1-0 defeat by Italy at the Olympic Games but recovered to thrash Costa Rica and hold the United States before losing 2-0 to eventual winners France in the quarter-finals.

This showing atoned for their shock Nations' Cup semifinal defeat after they had led Nigeria 2-0.

Algeria had a sad year. The talented but temperamental North Africans lost 2-1 on aggregate to Egypt in the final round of the Olympic qualifying competition and were pipped by Cameroun for a place in the Nations' Cup final.

They gained some consolation with a 3-1 victory over Egypt in the third-place play-off.

Morocco scored a dramatic victory over Nigeria in a penalty shoot-out to reach Los Angeles where they lost 2-0 to West Germany and Brazil and beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 in a strong group.

Tunisia successfully returned to the international fold half way through the year after the national squad had been disbanded in 1983 due to alleged low morale and lack of enthusiasm.

A new-look side beat Canada

and Nigeria in friendlies and then outclassed Benin in a World Cup game.

Of the club sides, Cairo-based Zamalek came out on top, capturing the Champions' Cup for the first time and taking the Egyptian Championship by two points from National.

Their 3-0 home win over Set of Algeria in the Champions' Cup semifinals was the finest club performance of the year.

Trailing 3-1 from the first leg, Zamalek ripped the visitors apart and could have hit six.

Libyans Al Ahly tore the Libyans' book to shreds as they upset Diarraf of Senegal. Zambia's Red Arrows and Canon de Yaounde from Cameroun en route to the Cup Winners' Cup final.

Then they refused to face national.

National, another top Cairo team, took the Cup Winners' Cup after a penalty shoot-out against Canon but failed to win the domestic championship for the second successive year and have slipped slightly since the golden days of 1982 when they won the Champion's Cup.

National staged a coaching coup by signing Don Revie but lost the former Leeds United and England boss later in the year when he returned home with his sick wife.

Arab Contractors of Egypt set out to win the Cup Winners' Cup for a record third successive time. But they had to concede defeat in the semifinals when National nudged them out on away goals after a 1-1 tie.

Kuwait soccer referees strike due to crowd violence

KUWAIT (R) — The Gulf State of Kuwait has suspended all domestic soccer matches after referees went on strike following spectator violence, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported Sunday.

It said one referee, Jawad Ashour, was attacked by spectators Saturday and matches had been suspended until further notice.

"The move followed the regrettable incidents faced by referees who decided not to take part in any domestic games," KUNA reported.

Soccer has fast grown in popularity in Kuwait, neighbouring Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States in recent years, with the wealthy nations spending millions on facilities.

Olympic gold medallist extends pro bout record

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — Olympic gold medallist Mark Breland used a four-inch (10 cm) reach advantage to neutralise Markon Palmer and score a six-round unanimous decision in his second professional fight Saturday.

Breland, a tall and lean welterweight, circled and jabbed eff-

ectively enough to keep his opponent at bay.

The 21-year-old New Yorker, who won his professional debut last November 15 on points, stunned Palmer with a right uppercut in the fourth round and then scored with two solid rights to the head before the bell interrupted his attack.

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Weissflog wins ski jumping crown

BISCHOFSHOFEN, Austria (AP) — East German Jens Weissflog won the annual four-hill international ski jumping tournament, but Norway's Hroar Stjernen upset the top jumpers to win the final event on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Norwegian, a member of his national B-team, soared 109.5 and 110 metres for a point total of 221.5 and surprised Olympic Champions in a preliminary to the world championships.

Weissflog, defending champion in the tournament, had to settle for fourth place in the final competition.

East German Klaus Ostwald was second Sunday with 219 points and Poland's Piotr Filas was third with 214.

Seventy-metre Olympic gold medallist Weissflog garnered 212.7 points with jumps of 105 and 109 metres and collected a total of 885.3 points during the tournament for wide lead over second place Matti Nykanen of Finland, the 90-metre Olympic champion.



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Egypt takes the nuclear option

ATHENS — Egypt has turned the corner towards eventual reliance on nuclear power for a large part of its energy needs. Parliament has given the go-ahead and a local consultant has been told to start site designs immediately for Egypt's first nuclear power station, at Al Dabaa, 160 kilometres west of Alexandria.

But more important than these signs of the government's commitment to nuclear power has been the decision of the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (Eximbank) to back Westinghouse Electric Corporation's bid to build the station.

By finally agreeing to participate in Westinghouse's bid — having earlier refused to do so — Eximbank has removed the last doubts about the project's feasibility.

If Al Dabaa does go ahead, it will have far-reaching implications for the region.

Many Arab and other developing countries are looking to nuclear power to meet burgeoning energy demand and, in the case of Middle East oil producers, to avoid over-reliance on precious hydrocarbons for electricity generation.

Success at Al Dabaa would be an added incentive for the developing world to follow Egypt's lead.

Egypt's long-range plan is to build up to eight 1,000 mega watt (MW) nuclear generating units by 2005, meeting 40 per cent of total energy needs. The cost of the programme is projected at \$3,000 million. Al Dabaa is to have two such units, priced at about \$1,250 million each.

Westinghouse — bidding in consortium with its Spanish and Belgian subsidiaries and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries — has offered to build one unit, with the option of adding a second later. Its closest competitor is a Franco-Italian consortium, led by France's Framatome, which has offered a two-unit package.

The export credit agencies in France and Italy have agreed to put up loan guarantees of \$900 million and \$600 million, respectively.

Also in the running for the contract is West Germany's Kraftwerk Union (KWU), which bid for one unit, but has yet to gain the support of the government export credit agency Hermes.

All three groups were invited to send representatives to Cairo to discuss technical and financial details of their offers with the client.

The U.S. Bechtel Overseas has offered a one-unit package, while West Germany's Brown, Boveri and Compagnie has bid for non-nuclear work only.

The government's determination to go ahead with the nuclear energy programme is unquestionable. And in a recent debate in the people's assembly (parliament), the opposition — with less than 15 per cent of the seats — could do little more than register its anxieties.

The opposition Wafd and Socialist Labour parties noted that the nuclear power programme in the U.S. had been scaled down in recent years, because of cost over-

runs on construction, mistaken forecasts as to the competitiveness of nuclear energy against fossil fuels, and fears of ecological disaster. It was also observed that the government has specified that Al Dabaa will be powered by a pressurised water reactor — the same kind that failed, with near-catastrophic results, at the U.S. Three Mile Island plant in 1979.

However, Mr. Muntaz Nassar of the Wafd weakened his party's arguments by claiming that all nuclear power stations in the U.S. had closed down because of fears about safety. And in the absence of a coherent case against nuclear power, the ruling National Democratic Party easily defeated the opposition motion calling for a commission on inquiry to be set up.

The government's argument for nuclear power concentrates on the economic aspects.

As regards safety and the environment, Electricity and Energy Minister Mohammad Maher Abaza has been content to claim that risks are minimal, citing large nuclear energy users, such as France and Belgium, as prime examples.

Mr. Abaza says nuclear power is essential to fill the gap between electricity supply and demand by the end of the century.

Present consumption is about 26,000 million Kilo Watt per Hour (KWH), according to government figures, and this is expected almost to quadruple by 2000. The hydroelectric plants at the two Aswan dams account for less than 40 per cent of total present consumption; the remainder is generated at oil and natural gas-fired stations.

Egypt, says Mr. Abaza, has almost reached the limits of its hydroelectric capacity. Heavier reliance on oil and gas for electricity generation would eat dangerously into oil exports — one of the main foreign currency earners — and coal reserves are limited.

Oil reserves are estimated at 4,000 million barrels; according to Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Minister Abdul Hadi Mohamed Kandil, this is enough to meet requirements for 10-12 years.

Provided reserves are replaced at the rate of production, he adds, there should be no cause for anxiety.

However, the proportion of output used locally is rising all the time, reaching 50 per cent in 1983/84, so efforts to curb consumption must accompany the search for alternatives to oil for power generation.

Electricity use is increasing by more than 10 per cent a year. Industry accounts for more than 50 per cent of consumption, at heavily subsidised prices.

According to Abaza, Egypt's electricity rates are the cheapest in the world — and the state pays an estimated \$2,000 million a year to keep the price down.

A recent World Bank report found that at several chemicals and metals plants the cost of energy inputs alone, calculated at world prices, exceeded the total foreign exchange value of their output.

In recent years the government has started to make serious efforts to combat the problem of energy



Egyptians benefit at present from some of the cheapest electricity rates in the world; the introduction of a nuclear power programme could provide the most economic solution to the problem of steadily rising demand for electricity.

subsidies. Heavy users such as the fertilisers industry are to be converted to natural gas, and there have been seven or eight increases in electricity tariffs in the past two years.

But such is the political sensitivity of the subsidies issue that the government is wary of radical action which would reduce the already low standard of living of most of the population.

Nuclear energy appeals to the government as the cheapest option available, and because it will generate further savings by releasing more oil for export. Mr. Abaza calculates that the cost of producing one unit of electricity at Al Dabaa will work out 34 and 35 per cent cheaper than at the coal or oil-fired alternatives.

He says a 1,000-MW nuclear generating unit would produce 6,000 million KWH a year, representing an annual saving of \$130 million, compared with the costs of an oil-fired plant.

However, it costs more to build a nuclear plant, as opposed to a conventional power station. A comparison is offered by the 945-MW oil or gas-fired station being built at Shoubra Al Khayma in Cairo for less than half the estimated \$1,250 million cost of one 1,000-MW unit at Al Dabaa. Mr. Abaza is confident, nevertheless.

A national fund set up in 1981 to finance alternative energy projects — including nuclear power — now totals about \$735 million. And, with Eximbank agreeing to part-finance Al Dabaa, it appears that the time has come for Egypt to embark on its ambitious, but potentially hazardous, nuclear course. (MEED)

'OPEC cannot use sanctions'

PEKING (R) — OPEC cannot use sanctions against its members to make them support efforts to shore up declining world oil prices, Kuwait's oil minister said Sunday.

The minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, told Reuters: "You cannot have sanctions on sovereign nations."

Sheikh Ali is visiting Peking to discuss bilateral cooperation with Chinese officials.

"The attitude of one country in sticking or not sticking to their (oil) agreement will affect the attitude of other countries and that is the ultimate sanction," said Sheikh Ali, who is also a leading official of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said this measure would stop members from trying to beat the new system by pushing sales in the remaining winter months of high demand, before the new system fully started.

Senior American, Soviet commerce officials to hold talks in Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior American and Soviet officials meet in Moscow this week for the first high-level trade talks between the superpowers since 1978, but U.S. officials said they do not expect any dramatic breakthroughs.

"We do not expect a sharp rise in trade as a result of the meeting but believe the meeting will have a positive impact on our trade relations," a spokesman for commerce undersecretary Mr. Lionel Olmer told Reuters.

Mr. Olmer leads an 11-member U.S. delegation. Mr. Vladimir Sushkov, deputy minister of foreign trade, heads the Soviet delegation for three days of talks opening on Tuesday.

The discussions will deal only with sales of non-strategic goods, such as food processing equipment and other machinery and manufactured goods with no military application.

The two sides will not discuss any changes in the tight U.S. restrictions on exports to the Soviet Union of goods such as sophisticated computers.

As a recent news conference, Mr. Olmer said the talks would focus on ways to improve conditions for U.S. companies seeking to do business in the Soviet Union.

"There are a number of facilitation issues to be discussed. That is, the ease with which a company can hire clerical assistance, move around the country, get listed on Soviet procurement ledgers and so on. Those are the sorts of things we intend to look

at," Mr. Olmer said.

Growth in trade between the United States and the Soviet Union has been sluggish, particularly since 1980 as relations between Moscow and Washington chilled during President Reagan's first four years in the White House.

Last year U.S. exports to the Soviet Union were worth an estimated \$2.9 billion and comprised mainly maize, wheat and other agricultural commodities.

The 1979 export figure was \$3.6 billion.

Exports from the Soviet Union to the United States amounted to about \$500 million last year. "For selected industries it can be a very important market. There are opportunities for selected U.S. industries and companies which believe there is a market they can satisfy," he said.

But he said potential new trade

with the Soviet Union would have only a marginal effect on the U.S. economy when weighed against total U.S. trade of about \$500 billion a year.

The talks are part of an effort announced by Mr. Reagan in June to improve commercial ties between Moscow and Washington.

At that time Mr. Reagan renewed the long-term economic, industrial and technical cooperation agreement for 10 years. The U.S. and the Soviet Union first made the accord in 1974.

If successful, the session could lead to a meeting of the joint commercial commission of the two countries.

The commission, established under the cooperation pact, last met in 1978. Meetings were suspended by the United States after the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

Austerity bites into S. African economy

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African economy, buffeted by a slumping gold price and the worst drought in living memory, faces a bleak 1985 with government austerity moves aimed at recovery in 1986 now biting, economists say.

Gold is now trading around \$310 an ounce, down from over \$500 an ounce last year. A further drop in the price could delay economic recovery still further.

The country's leading insurance firm Sanlam said in an economic survey recently that the downturn in general economic activity was far more serious than the latest statistics showed.

"We believe that poor business conditions will prevail until late 1985," it said.

Last August South Africa introduced an austerity package of unprecedented severity which drove bank lending rates up to a record 25 per cent.

Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock told Reuters in a recent interview that the measures aimed at curbing inflation and improving the balance of payments were working better and sooner than expected.

But he warned the country that it faced an economic downturn and accelerating inflation for some months to come.

South Africa is the world's leading gold producer. Half its foreign exchange earnings come from bullion sales, and the metal's fortunes hold the key to the nation's economic outlook.

Most economists here are unwilling to predict the gold price for 1985. But the finance ministry hopes for some rebound and has budgeted on around the 1984 average of some \$360 an ounce, senior government officials told Reuters.

The country's economic troubles have been worsened by drought. Traditionally a large food exporter, South Africa may be

forced to import maize for the second year running — a further drain on its foreign exchange earnings.

Economists said the outlook also depended on the resolve of Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, who introduced the austerity package within days of taking up the portfolio last year.

Insurers Sanlam have warned the government against relaxing restrictive measures prematurely.

Interest rates are still close to record levels.

Recent weakness of the country's currency, the rand, and the gold price forced banks to raise lending rates to prime customers to 24 per cent earlier last month. This was barely a month after banks cut rates to 23 per cent from a record 25 per cent in August.

Summing up the current mood in the economy, Stellenbosch University's respected economic research bureau said consumer optimism was at a record low among both blacks and whites, mainly because of the austerity package.

Volskask Bank said in a study last month that unless government spending was cut, a one-billion rand (\$500 million) tax increase was inevitable.

The Reserve Bank's de Kock forecasts a big turnaround in South Africa's balance of payments current account in 1985, with a surplus of one to two billion rand (\$500 million to \$1 billion) this year. A deficit of one billion rand (\$500 million) is expected in 1984.

Economic growth this year could be about 2.5 per cent, according to Volskask Bank. But some economists said this could be over-optimistic. Four per cent growth in 1984 is expected.

Inflation will increase in early 1985 from 12.5 per cent in the year through October, reflecting higher import costs as the rand slips against the dollar.

Jakarta may expand budget

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's President Suharto is likely to announce a small increase in his annual expenditure despite difficulties in the economy when he gives his budget speech in parliament Monday, bankers and economists said.

Mr. Suharto's draft budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 comes amid fears of a collapse in the world oil market and recession in Indonesia's industrial sector.

But bankers said an expenditure increase of more than the 8.76 per cent estimated 1984 inflation rate was necessary for economic development to continue.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As the new weeks opens, think more in terms of the long-range plans that you have in mind and put forth some extra effort to make them more a part of your daily activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Know what the desires of those who dwell with you are and cooperate more with them; give them backing. Much can be accomplished. TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Important that you give partners information they need if you are to gain their cooperation more willingly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have to be persistent if you are to gain the benefits that are rightfully yours. Listen to the ideas of a co-worker.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Utilize spare time for any pleasures you like so that they are not beyond your ken.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you feel frustrated at home, discuss this with family members and make better arrangements. Get your abode in fine order.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Discuss a better way to handle daily routines with partners and employees. Let there be a spirit of comradeship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Bigwigs are watching how you handle your job and finances, so be sure to do your best. Show that you are thinking clearly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to contact individuals who have the information you need to get your plans working better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do the research work quietly that will provide the facts and figures you need to make progress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Outline your plans to good friends and allies and they will cooperate with you, and this will be mutually helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your business duties and perform them well so that a bigwig will be impressed and you gain extra benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be clever and you can gain your fondest ambitions, but don't dally for best results. You can later relieve tensions.

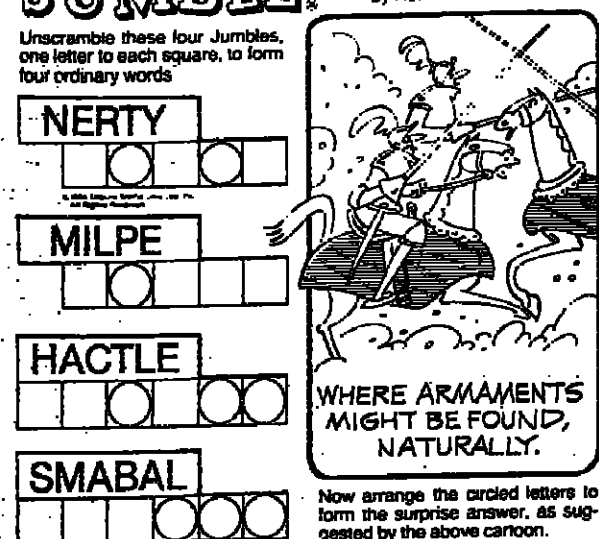
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can easily get at the core of any matter with which he, or she is concerned, so be sure to give as fine an education as possible. One who is apt to be stubborn and should early be taught to listen to the ideas of others and profit thereby, as well as have more regard for others.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"I need a four-letter word for 'heart disease' and L-O-V-E doesn't fit!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

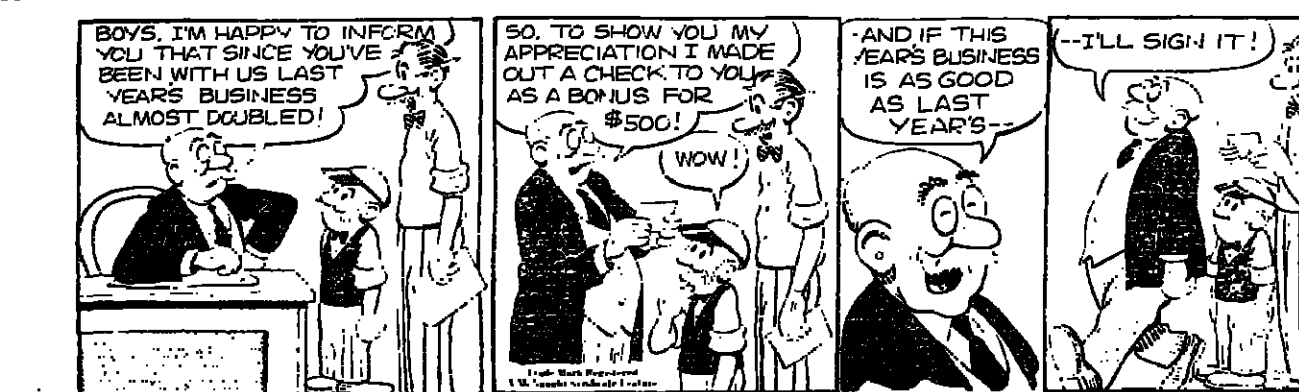


Answer: Among "NERTY" - "MILPE" - "HACTLE" - "SMABAL"

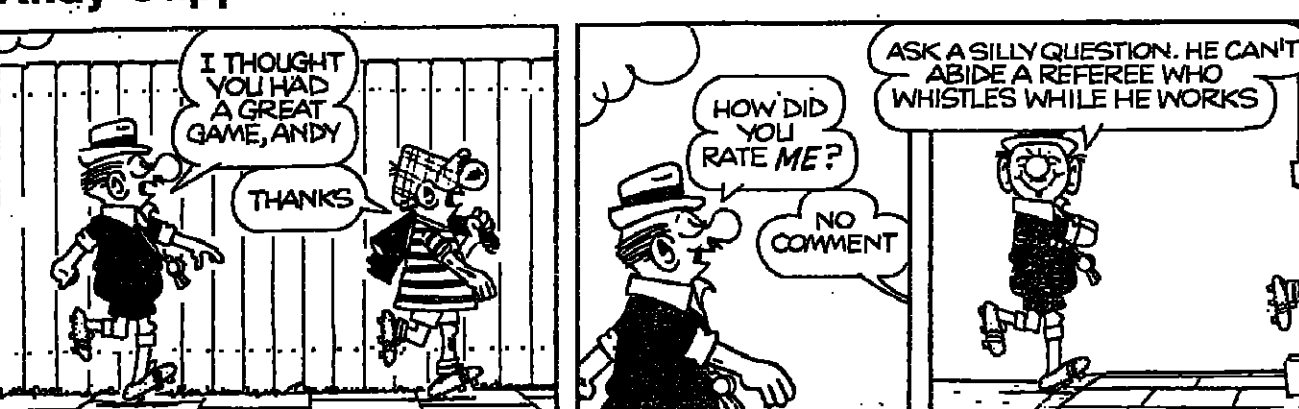
Peanuts



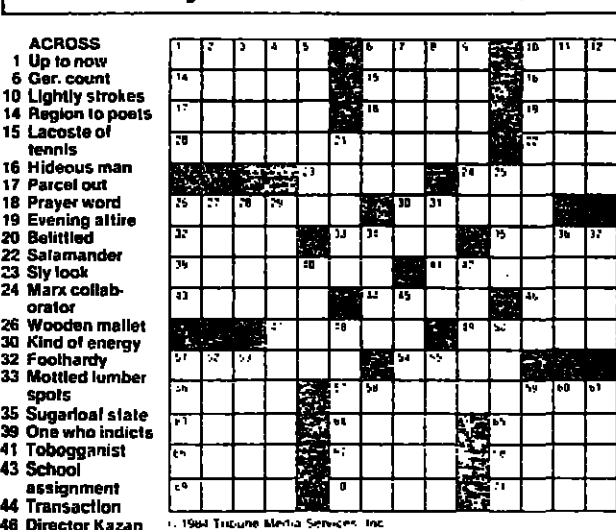
Mutt 'n' Jeff



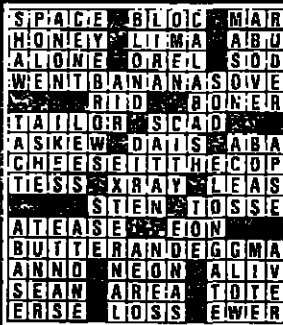
Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword By Evelyn Benshoof



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



Shultz in Geneva 'on mission for peace'

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived Sunday for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and said he had come on a mission for peace.

"President Reagan has sent us here on a mission for peace," he said in a statement at Geneva Airport. "We will meet the Soviet delegation with a constructive and positive attitude."

Mr. Shultz, who meets Mr. Gromyko Monday and Tuesday, heads one of the highest-ranking delegations the United States has assembled for arms talks with the Soviet Union.

In addition to arms negotiators Paul Nitze and Edward Rowny, the group includes National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Burt and Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Perle.

"It is a mark of President Reagan's serious approach to these negotiations that he has dispatched such a high-powered team," Mr. Shultz said.

"I hope (the talks) will set our countries on a path toward new negotiations on equitable and verifiable agreements."

"The president has made very clear that the United States will work hard to reach agreement that will contribute not only to the security of the United States and the Soviet Union, but to the rest of the world as well," Mr. Shultz said.

"We have no illusions that progress will be easy. But we will all work as hard as we can to achieve a positive outcome from these discussions."

He spoke on the windy tarmac where the temperature was minus 12 degrees centigrade.

The talks between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko will be the first arms discussions since the Soviet Union walked out of negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles

in November 1983 in protest over U.S. deployment of new missiles in Europe.

U.S. officials say that Mr. Shultz will press hard for reductions in offensive weapons while offering to discuss defensive arms as well.

Mr. Gromyko, who was expected to arrive late in the afternoon (1600 GMT), will be seeking to prevent the United States pursuing its "Star Wars" anti-missile defence programme.

They meet in the coldest weather Switzerland has seen for 20 years. The Swiss Meteorological Institute Saturday blamed the cold spell on "a wave of icy winds from Siberia".

The talks begin Monday at 10.00 a.m. (0900 GMT) at the Soviet mission to the United Nations in Geneva. A second session will be held in the afternoon at the U.S. mission.

Both sides have also agreed to a third meeting, again at the Soviet mission on Tuesday morning. If a fourth meeting is agreed for that afternoon, the Americans will again play host.

The official Soviet and East Bloc press has attacked U.S. plans for research into placing defensive weapons in space and has warned against expecting any breakthroughs from the talks.

The United States has also urged against expecting too much. But members of the U.S. Congress, briefed by President Reagan on Friday, came away cautiously optimistic.

Western diplomats say that one sign the Soviet Union is taking the meeting seriously came in its rare apology in Norway and Finland on Friday for a missile that strayed

over their territories at the end of December.

"The Kremlin clearly feels a gracious apology was better, given that the talks start on Monday at its own suggestion," one Western diplomat in Moscow said.

Meanwhile declaring that the upcoming U.S.-Soviet arms talks should be "honest and business-like," Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko says his country is prepared for "urgent and effective measures" for ending the arms race — including U.S. acceptance of Soviet proposals.

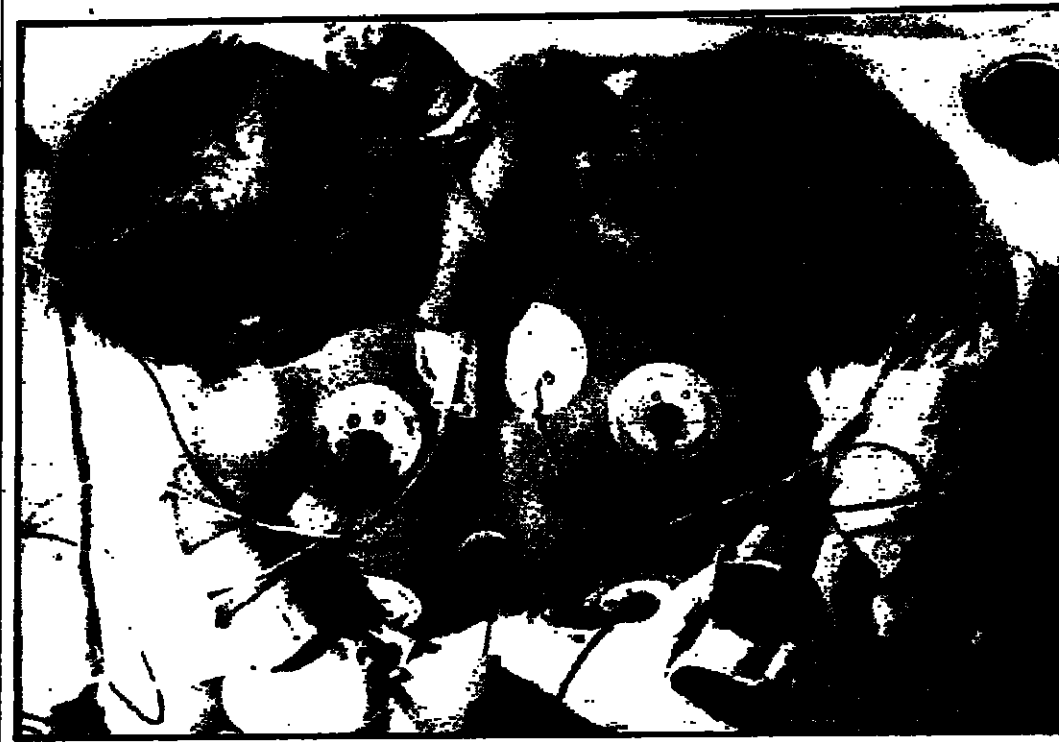
Repeating Soviet calls for a nuclear arms freeze and a formal superpower agreement renouncing first use of nuclear missiles, he said Saturday that the Soviets would "welcome" U.S. agreement on those proposals.

"The Soviet Union attaches much importance to reaching agreement with the United States on the entire range of questions embracing both the non-militarisation of space and nuclear arms," Mr. Chernenko said.

Mr. Chernenko was replying to a message from "the co-chairmen of a consultative meeting of representatives of the Churches of Christ, Dr. Avery Poy of the United States and Dr. Karoly Toth of Hungary." His remarks were distributed in an English translation by the official Soviet News Agency TASS.

"There has arisen the need to adopt urgent and effective measures to prevent a further destabilisation of the strategic situation and preclude further rounds of the arms race," he said.

"In this connection, I would like to stress that our approach to talks is based on the conviction that they should be honest and business-like," Mr. Chernenko said. "The aim of the talks should not be to deceive (one's) partner and public opinion."



DOUBLE TROUBLE: — Michael and Matthew Morris take a nap after undergoing extensive physiological testing following their early afternoon birth at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Siamese twins are joined at the stomach and should be safely separated next week (AP wire photo).

Rouge, Louisiana. The Siamese twins are joined at the stomach and should be safely separated next week (AP wire photo).

8 rebels killed in raid on Sri Lankan church

COLOMBO (R) — Eight guerrillas were killed and five wounded in a gunbattle with troops at a Catholic Church in Sri Lanka's north western Mannar district Saturday night, a government spokesman said Sunday.

He said the battle started when security forces surrounded St. Anne's Church at Vankalai after receiving information that it was used as a base by guerrillas fighting for a separate state for the island's minority Tamil community.

Guerrillas inside the church premises opened fire on the security forces who returned the fire. Twelve guerrillas later escaped, he said. No casualties were reported among the troops.

He said security forces who searched the church premises Sunday morning found 28 kilograms of explosives, five shotguns, several rounds of ammunition and subversive leaflets and cassettes.

Local residents told Reuters the priest attached to the church was missing after the raid.

A spokesman at the bishop's house in northern Jaffna district told Reuters he had received information from the Bishop of Mannar that the priest was shot dead by troops and his body was removed in an army vehicle.

The Bishop of Mannar could not be contacted.

Meanwhile separatist guerrillas who threatened to declare an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka on Jan. 14 have postponed the declaration until April, National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali said.

The state radio Saturday night quoted the minister as telling a rally that the rebels had been thwarted in their aim as a result of counter measures taken by the security forces.

Mr. Athulthumudali told parliament in November that the guerrillas had threatened to oust the security forces from northern Sri Lanka by the end of December and declare an independent state for the country's 2.5 million Tamils there on Jan. 14, a Tamil festival day.

"Far from driving out the security forces, today there are more troops in the north than before and on Jan. 14 the only flag that will fly in the north is the Sri Lankan national flag," the minister told the meeting.

The guerrillas launched a new offensive in November and the government countered by imposing stringent security measures in the northern areas.

These included the declaration of a security zone in the northern district of Jaffna, where movement was restricted, and a ban on boats sailing around the northern coast, as a means of preventing the arrival of rebels from northern India.

JAKARTA (R) — Two men charged with subversion will appear in court Monday in the first public trial of more than 50 people arrested in connection with a riot and three bomb attacks in Jakarta last year.

At least 17 people have already been charged, some with for subversion, while dozens of others are still being interrogated by the authorities. Subversion carries a maximum penalty of death.

Those being charged include some well known Muslim hardliners, a former cabinet minister and a former secretary general of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The riot on Sept. 12 in the port area of Tanjung Priok in north Jakarta was blamed by the authorities on Muslim extremists.

Kampuchean rebel leader visits Ampil

AMPIL, Kampuchea (R) — Nationalist guerrilla leader Son Sann paid a surprise visit Sunday to his key base of Ampil which was preparing to resist an anticipated attack by Vietnamese forces.

"Inflict the maximum casualties on them with the minimum losses," Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), ordered his military commander, Gen. Dien Del.

The meeting was held at Gen. Dien Del's heavily reinforced bunker in the presence of journalists.

Mr. Son Sann told an impromptu press conference that Vietnamese troops might attack Ampil Monday to mark the sixth anniversary of their intervention in Kampuchea.

"But I advise them not to. Because instead of celebrating the sixth anniversary victory, they might be mourning their defeat," he said.

Ampil, the command headquarters of the KPNLF, is its only major base still left intact since Vietnamese troops began a dry season offensive against guerrilla bases along the western Kampuchea border last November.

In preparation for the expected attack, the sprawling complex has been converted into what Gen. Dien Del described as "bunker city."

Forward defence lines were criss-crossed with trenches and fortified bunkers and guerrillas armed with mostly Chinese-supplied anti-tank weapons, mortars and 12.7 mm guns were on alert.

Some of the weapons and ammunition still had grease from their

Gandhi launches economic reform

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, exuding confidence after an overwhelming election victory, has set course for his government, calling for national reconciliation and launching a reform of economic planning.

Mr. Gandhi, in his first national radio and television broadcast since taking office on New Year's Eve, set out his priorities, saying the crisis in Sikh-majority Punjab state, the most divisive in independent India's history, headed the list.

He also overhauled the Planning Commission, the country's highest economic policy-making body, expanding it to include finance, trade and industry experts.

At 40 India's youngest leader, Mr. Gandhi outlined a sweeping programme of change, pledging his government would be accountable for its actions. He promised to go for results, stripping bare rules and procedures to speed decisions.

On Friday Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party ended with an unprecedented 401 of the 508 seats at stake in the polls in what he called a people's victory.

"You have given (us) a mandate for unity, for strength, for harmony," he said in his speech Saturday night.

Last week Mr. Gandhi named three senior colleagues to a crisis committee charged with seeking a peaceful settlement in Punjab state, where Sikh extremists are waging a violent campaign to back demands for a separate state.

His mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi was killed by two Sikh bodyguards on Oct. 31 last year, about five months after she sent troops into Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, to root out extremists sheltering there.

In his speech, Mr. Gandhi held out an olive branch to the Sikhs. "In ending the sad chapter of discord, all should cooperate. The Sikhs are as much a part of India as any other community."

But he took a hard line against separatists, saying: "There cannot, and will not, be any concession to separatist ideologies and to the cult of violence. India's unity is paramount."

India's foreign policy underlined peace with all countries, Mr. Gandhi said, promising to resolve differences with the country's neighbours in South Asia.

He also held out reform of the country's unwieldy educational system. "Education must promote national cohesion and the work ethic," he added.

Over the past week Mr. Gandhi has replaced several key aides, surrounding himself with trusted lieutenants and his ministers have called for better results.

Contadora ministers to meet this week

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Foreign ministers of the four nations of the Contadora Group meet next week on the second anniversary of the start of their collective search for peace in Central America.

Little has been said about the meeting Tuesday and Wednesday and it is not clear if it is intended merely as a symbolic commemoration of the day two years ago when the presidents of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela started their multinational peace seeking initiative on the nearby resort island of Contadora.

Although the group has been commended internationally for its efforts to defuse tensions throughout the region, after two years of negotiations its ultimate goal of peace in the trouble spots of Central America appears as remote as ever.

The Contadora proposals, contained in draft treaties, would commit the Central American nations to halt all arms imports into the region, begin talks on arms reductions, remove foreign military advisers and installations, and withdraw any support from groups hostile to the governments

of other countries in the region. Several diplomatic sources here said the most recent draft, prepared in September but not made public, included a call for the closure within six months of all foreign military and training facilities in the area.

The draft was approved in principle by the five Central American nations affected, but later was rejected by Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador after reported U.S. criticism of the treaty because of the curb it would place on American military involvement in the region.

Asked about possible U.S. pressure to block the treaty, one Western diplomat with long experience in the region told the Associated Press in a recent interview that U.S. officials had simply "pointed out what... the defects were."

The diplomat, who has monitored the Contadora meetings here closely, rejected Nicaraguan contentions that the United States, as the dominant power in Central America, was the main obstacle to the Contadora process.

"After two years, it's pretty

clear that the problem (with Contadora) is the absolute refusal of the Nicaraguans, the Sandinistas, to negotiate some fundamental points," the diplomat, who requested anonymity for protocol reasons, said.

He said the points Nicaragua had refused to negotiate included "the Cuban presence, the arms buildup in the region, export of revolution outside its borders, and finally the argument of political pluralism inside Nicaragua."

Nicaragua announced last September that it was willing to sign the pact.

"It's easy to sign an agreement you have no intention of honouring," the Western diplomat said.

The Reagan administration says Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government, with the backing of Cuba and the Soviet Bloc countries, has built an army far in excess of its defence needs.

A Nicaraguan diplomat here, asked recently about the rejection of the Contadora pact by the Reagan administration's closest allies in the region shook his head sadly and said, "it looks bad, very bad."

Other protests came from members of the dissident group of 50, a loose organisation of retired army officers and intellectuals opposed to President Somocho. Gen. Dharsono was closely associated with it.

Two original members of the group have also been arrested, including Muhammad Sanusi, a former cabinet minister who will appear in court on Jan. 12, and Muhammad Fatwa, a Muslim preacher known for his headline attitude against the government.

Icy weather grips western Europe

PARIS (R) — A wave of frigid arctic weather engulfed most parts of western and central Europe, causing havoc on roads and laying carpets of snow as far south as Italy and the normally mild French Riviera.

Overnight temperatures plunged as low as minus 30 centigrade in Austria and weathermen there were forecasting a further drop to minus 40 centigrade. French meteorologists said the mercury dipped to minus 33

centigrade in the Doubs region near the Swiss border, approaching 1971's national record of minus 35 centigrade. Paris shivered through its coldest day since 1956 with a low of minus 11 centigrade, and the biting weather extended south to the Mediterranean coast.

Chlorine leak in Indian state puts 45 in hospital

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 45 employees of a factory in the south Indian state of Kerala have been admitted to hospital after inhaling chlorine gas, the United News Agency of India (UNI) news agency said Sunday.

The news agency quoted State Labour Minister K. Sivadasan as

saying 42 people were still in hospital, recovering from the effects of the poisonous gas which leaked from the process section of the Madurai Coats Factory on Friday.

The factory is located near Trichur, on the south western coast of India. Madurai Coats manufactures mainly threads.

Bolivian climbers reach plane wreckage

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — A team of Bolivian climbers fighting high winds and snow reached the wreckage of an Eastern Airlines jet nearly 6,096 metres up Illimani Mountain on Saturday and reported finding no survivors of the crash, the airline said.

The Boeing 727 carrying 29 people crashed on Tuesday, minutes before it was to land at La Paz Airport from Asuncion, Paraguay.

Officials had held out no hope that any of those aboard could have survived. In the days since the accident there have been sub-zero temperatures, freezing rain, and avalanches on Illimani.

One high-altitude Peruvian army helicopter arrived in La Paz to help the retrieval effort and the U.S. Air Force is sending a Sikorsky high-altitude helicopter from McGuire Air Force Base near Washington, D.C.

Felix Forestieri, Eastern spokesman in La Paz, said the three-man Bolivian team had reached the plane, found it destroyed, and reported there were no survivors.

Among the passengers aboard was Marian Davis, wife of the U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay, Arthur Davis.

The Bolivians ascended the mountainside opposite the wreckage, said airlines spokeswoman Paula Musto in Miami, then climbed down from the 6,400-metre summit to the crash site.

"Because of heavy snowfall the wreckage is becoming covered with snow," Ms. Musto said. "If they can get (the Peruvian) helicopter up there they will attempt to put people down on the site if it's feasible."

The weather had stymied all efforts to reach the wreck until the Bolivians' successful climb.

U.S. Consul Royce Flente, who is at the base camp closest to the wreckage, had started up the mountain Thursday afternoon but was forced back by the weather. He was said to intend to climb up again after receiving word from the three-man Bolivian team.

On Friday afternoon, Bolivian Air Force helicopters tried to lower two expert skiers and mountaineers on a slope above the crash site, but heavy winds forced cancellation of the plan.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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BREAK THOSE 'RULES'

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

WEST EAST
♠ J1032 ♠ K75
♥ 98 ♥ K7652
♦ K32 ♦ A7
♣ 9642 ♣ J75

SOUTH
♠ AK96
♥ QJ10
♦ 94
♣ K83

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣.

We have often remarked that the many bromides that are quoted about the game are well and good, but they are only generalities. Specific situations need special treatment. In this hand, the late Harold Ogust, West, and Boris Koytchou, East, broke almost every 'rule' they could to defeat an opposing no trump game.

The bidding was straightforward. Note, however, that South stopped to show his major suit en route to three

no trump in case his side had a 4-4 fit.

The cliché governing opening leads against no trump contracts is: "Fourth highest from your longest and strongest." Ogust decided there was little future in a club lead. It seemed far better to look for his partner's long suit, and the auction suggested that it was almost certain to be hearts, so he attacked with the nine of hearts.

Declarer played low from the table. Rule two that came into play was: "Third hand high." Had Koytchou won the trick with the king and returned the suit, declarer would have had an easy time making his contract. Instead, Koytchou signalled encouragement with the seven.

Declarer won and led a diamond. The third adage says: "Second hand low," so naturally Ogust jumped in with his king and led another heart. Declarer played low again from dummy. This time Koytchou won the king and continued with a heart to knock out declarer's last stopper in the suit.

Perhaps declarer should have tried for his ninth trick by finessing the 10 of clubs, but that was doomed to failure as the cards lie. In any event, he decided that a better chance was to hope West had started with both missing diamond honors. When he led another diamond, East was able to win the ace and take two more heart tricks for down one.

We will remind you one more time: Those wise saws will work on many occasions, but they are no substitute for common sense.

COLUMN

Princess Margaret hospitalised

LONDON (AP) — Princess Margaret, 54, younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II, was admitted Saturday to London's Brompton Hospital, which specialises in treating heart and chest diseases, said a spokesman at Clarence House, her mother's residence. The spokesman, who spoke on condition he was not identified, said the princess was taken to the hospital near her Kensington Palace residence in West London, "for investigations." Hospital spokesman John Plant called the princess' hospitalisation "routine." He said it was not an emergency and the princess was expected to remain in hospital for "a few days." A spokesman for Queen Elizabeth confirmed there was no emergency. "The princess spent Christmas at Windsor Castle (west of London) with the Royal Family and then returned to Kensington Palace for New Year," the spokesman added.

Spanish farmers advertise for wives

HUESCA, Spain (AP) — Unmarried farmers, inspired by a movie about mail-order brides in the old American west, have advertised that they need women for the survival of their tiny town in the picturesque Chistau Valley. The ad, published last week in the newspaper Nueva Espana, was purchased by 50 unmarried men in Plan, a tiny village of 624 in the Pyrenees. Socialist Mayor Josefine Loste said the men got the idea last week from watching the William A Wellman film, Westward the Women. The ad was addressed to women from Huesca and Zaragoza provinces, but it added that the farmers would "welcome as well those coming from anywhere else."

World's first test tube quads become 1 year old

MELBOURNE (R) — The world's first test-tube quads, born under Australia's artificial insemination programme, were a year old Sunday and in perfect health, doctors said. The 32-year-old mother of Sam, Christopher, Ben and Brett has not been identified.

Plastic bags to be banned in Italy

ROME (AP) — Plastic bags will be banned throughout Italy beginning in January 1991, the Industry Ministry has announced. All other packing and bags made with fibers that cannot be recycled will also be banned beginning the same date, the ministry said. The ministry said non-biodegradable plastic bags, used in supermarkets and in most shops, are considered a major pollution problem in many countries and have been killing fish and other animals when dumped into seas and rivers.

Son gets married beside father's coffin

PEORIA, Illinois (AP) — Mark Songer wanted his father to be present when he married, so he and his bride exchanged wedding vows beside his father's open casket. "I don't know what made me think of it," Songer, 34, said. "I knew how much he loved the woman that I married, and I knew how much he loved me, and he always wanted the best for me, and... it seemed so natural to do." Songer — who said he had lived with his bride-to-be, Mary Lou Smith, for eight years — said it had been very important to his parents that he marry Ms. Smith. But his mother died in November, and on Christmas Day his father, William Songer, also died. So on Friday, just 45 minutes before William Songer's funeral, The Rev. Paul J. Clark conducted what he called "completely traditional wedding" before a hushed group of 18 close friends and relatives — and before an open casket bearing the 63-year-old Songer's body.

Hawaii to get biggest telescope

PASADENA, California (R) — The world's biggest optical telescope — said to be capable of seeing candlelight on the moon — will be set up on a Hawaii volcano, the California Institute of Technology has announced. The telescope will consist of 36 hexagonal mirrors, each 18 inches across.

سورة الفاتحة